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In effect, these protesters are stealing money from the people of the state of Vermont. They need to suffer the consequences of their civil disobedience — besides a slap on the wrist.

Paul Lauenroth  
COLCHESTER

## THE POWER OF ONE?

[Dr. Neil Gertz, August 1] So of 400 people polled, one person has come forward, Neil Merinich, a retired guy, columnist from Woodstock and father of an adolescent attorney general, Kyle Merinich-Sandell, who is employed in Senell's office? Why is this allegation even being taken seriously? Come on!

It seems that this is more like a tactic to distract from Governor's request for three more debates. Having been to two of their debates already, I am wondering why Mr. Sandell would not want to do more.

Let's get on with the campaign and talk about the real issues that are important to Vermonters. Debates, for in front of us, is what we should really be covering.

Robert Farnham  
HAMMOR N.H.

## BETTER WITH BUTTERS

Nine article [Mike Dehen, June 6] We're been to Butters Restaurant for brunch, and it was fabulous. The owners are great, friendly people, and Mike puts out a great spread. We're going back.

## CORRECTION

In last week's Dispatch, special section, staff writer Paul Rivest inaccurately attributed the "HITEN-vent hole" photo essay to the August issue of *Thruud Magazine* to "Hippert Bipter." Bipter was never the first. In fact, Bipter took only the first photo in the series. Bipter's revelations that the rest of the photos and wrote the introduction in the prior Month also motivated Rivest's age, the *Thruud* publisher and editor is 28. We apologize for the errors, and trust that they do not distract Rivest's bipter cred.

soon. It's a very nice addition to our town, and we wish them success.

Jane Brown  
CAIRO

## DOG'S DIGNITY

This is such a heartwarming tale ["What a Winner Hobbes the Dachshund 'Thruudform' Talt Judo in Vermont," June 27]. It is more endearing because Hobbes was made an honorary police dog. I recently read two stories about three police dogs that died because they were left in cages overnight. One, in Boston, Talted two owners. In both cases, the gals were put on adoption-systems leave. I love the positive changes that have happened since Hobbes was first adopted.

Marcy Bragg  
VANCOUVER B.C. CANADA

## A DIFFERENT HOLDING CRISIS

My grandson had to stay in prison because there was no suitable place for him to go, either ["Nowhere to Go: A Vermont Prisoner's Suicide Attempt Highlights DOC Housing Shortage," August 1]. I am in senior housing and am not allowed to take him in. I know of other inmates who are wondering where they can live upon their release. If they end up living on the streets, they will end up back in prison. And it will also be difficult for them to find employment because they have a record, especially those with facial tattoos. But they do need housing first.

Nina Bartlett  
BURLINGTON

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PHOTOS BY MATTHEW THORSEN



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## FUN STUFF

straight cool  
music you missed  
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even more  
hills, and rail  
kuku mythology  
this modern world  
in the endtimes  
and more, try popular  
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personals

## CLASSIFIEDS

24 vehicles  
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75 buy the stuff  
76 music  
77 books  
78 auto/boats/boats  
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FRIDAY 11 & SATURDAY 12

## Clothes to Home

lulled in a playful marriage life down since without a home, a puppet play when the puppets are in love, a crime story and a TED Talk gone hilariously wrong" experimental theater piece **Punks and Bitches** makes a delightfully weird stop at Phoenix's pubes. You'll never look at lions the same way again.

© 2004 Blackwell Publishing Ltd *Journal of Internal Medicine* 255: 255–262

FRIDAY 13 & SATURDAY 14

### Good Acoustics

Celtic troubadours, old-time fiddle tunes, blues and ballads come together at the **Pantheon American Music Festival**, which turns the whole town into a stage. Musicians, such as folk-blues guitarist Steve Jones and guitar ace Donnie Armstrong (speaking and singing), McEwen (pictured), perform in concerts, jam sessions and "blues jams." **Band:** *Donnie*

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 47

FRIDAY 17 & SATURDAY 18

### Manifest Destiny

Where can you find hiking trails, a swimming pond and Luis Guzman this weekend? Only at the **Manzanillo**, a five-day festival held in the backwoods of Cabal. Of course, the main highlight is the music — 3000 Distas, Realta Underground, La Manera and Tumbado Krews contribute to the 10th anniversary fiesta.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 40  
AND STORY ON PAGE 34

④

SATURDAY 18

### • Big Estate

Galleries are great, but the best way to appreciate art has to be over the shoulders of the artist. "In the room you'll get at the Vermont Festival of the Arts **Great Vermont Place Air Fair**. But, Creative juices — and paint — will be flowing freely at artist studios along Route 100.

SEE CALENDAR SPOTLIGHT ON PAGE 42

⑤

THURSDAY 16- SUNDAY 19

## All's Fair

**5' Yearling Gelding** **Yearling Gelding** **Yearling Gelding** has her a good age — 55 — but it shows. Recognizes of clearing doors. "It's just it has all the makings of a class 1. Her neck fair horse shows kudos: country jam, antelope, potting and waterfalls and spilling. Believes her? It's worth the road to the Wilminton.

SEE CALIFORNIA LISTINGS PAGE 45.

⑥

CONCLUSIONS

### Rural Charm

His earliest workdates from 1936. Her latest, from this winter, "a staying power displayed in a 15-year retrospective of **9 Ave. Culture Pages**—career is impressive—but so is the nonconformist art itself. Watercolors, pastels and ink drawings, and oil paintings focus on the evergreen and country living in a current exhibit at **Raree's Studio Plus Arts**.

1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 26

⑦

SATURDAY 39

### Lee Work

Take your meeting straight to a **Walk to End Child Abuse**—or in Montpelier, a run for the same goal. "In Saturday and next, folks pound the pavement in support of Prevent Child Abuse Vermont in the Capital City as well as Norwich, Rutland, Middlebury and Montpelier. Being the distance varied.

SEE CALIFORNIA LISTINGS ON PAGE 40

everything else is close.

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## A Knockout Punch For Sorrell?

**F**ollowing the Democratic primary for attorney general has been like watching a slow-motion boxing match. Facing the heavyweight champ is 15-year incumbent Attorney General **BILL SORRELL**, in the role of scrappy challenger is Chittenden County State's Attorney **JA DOMANUS**.

For months now, Domanus has been throwing jabs (suggesting Sorrell is disorganized), left hooks (conning out for discrimination lawsuits) and uppercuts (saying Sorrell blew the Vermont Yankee case). Domanus has yet to land a knockout punch, but Sorrell has come out a little bruised and bloodied.

Now, suddenly, it's Domanus against the ropes. Last week, a super PAC named in Washington, D.C., bought \$94,000 worth of airtime on two local TV stations (WCAX and WPTZ) to air a pro-Sorrell advertisement.

That's a splash of cash. To be precise, it's more money than Sorrell's campaign had raised in total as of July 10 — and enough to turn the ad 23 times between August 19 and the August 28 primary.

Narrated by Sorrell booster **WILLIAM GAGE**, the 30-second ad shows photos of Wall Street skyscrapers set against entranced music, and then cheerily tells viewers that Sorrell "cracked down on corrupt bankers and won't let him in relief for homeowners." The ad is the first by a super PAC in Vermont.

Domanus led Sorrell in fundraising last month but has no plan to purchase TV time — and so super PAC is his corner. In facing the super PAC ad barrage, Domanus did the only thing he could do. He branded it as un-Vermont and demanded that Sorrell call on the group to remove the ad "in the interest of fairness."

"This is not the Vermont way," Domanus said at a press conference outside Burlington City Hall last week. "People don't like Washington, D.C., money coming in and influencing elections."

At last, the Sorrell camp responded by washing its hands of the ad, stressing that an independent group that had "neither consulted with us nor given us any knowledge of the ad" purchased it. That's important, because if Sorrell and the super PAC were in cahoots, the purchase would be considered a "coordinated" expenditure and would surely exceed Vermont's legal disclosure limits.

But by Monday, Sorrell was embracing the ad. He's — saying he is "very happy"

about it — and practically laughing off Domanus's demands to take it down. "I'm sure he wants the ad to come down because it's a positive ad about my record, and it's not consistent with the distortion that have been coming out of his campaign about my lack of engagement as an attorney general," Sorrell told *Politico*.

But Domanus isn't just whining. He's calling Sorrell out as a hypocrite for decrying the "corruptive" effects of big money in politics — a cornerstone of the AG's reelection message — and then benefiting from super-PAC dough in a tough re-election fight. Moreover, Domanus pointed out that Sorrell issued a legal opinion just three weeks ago saying the attorney general's office would not enforce contribution limits on political action committees that make "independ-

things," the DC-based group was established as a so-called 527 (remember the 2007 last year for Terry?) and has received the lion's share of its money from the Democratic Attorneys General Association (DAGA), of which Sorrell is a member. The committee established a super PAC on August 8, the day before its ad hit Vermont airwaves, according to a Federal Election Commission filing.

And where does the DAGA get its money? Merely from multinational corporations and labor unions. According to OpenSource.org, the association's top contributors for the 2012 election cycle include Wal-Mart, the Transocean, Pfizer, Google and Monsanto. The No. 2 donor to the DAGA? Citigroup Global Markets — the same "Cit" that the pro-Sorrell ad casts as a Wall Street villain.

So does Sorrell see a conflict?

"I wasn't named one of the nation's worst AGs by the Competitive Enterprise Institute because I've been playing football with corporations," Sorrell replied.

Maybe not. But it looks like corporate America is playing football with him.

### Occupy City Council

In the midst of Occupy Burlington demonstrations, there's a lot of blame to go around for the violence that erupted outside a conference of New England governors and Canadian premiers on July 20.

Among the accused: The cops who fired nonlethal projectiles at demonstrators brandishing a line of shields headed by **Shoshone James** for a weekly dance, **Burlington Police Chief Michael Scullion** for erroneously saying demonstrators provoked the shooting, the global forces of corporate hegemony (SOL, I made up that last one).

At Monday's city council meeting — the first since the skirmish — it was Mayor **MIKE WHELAN**'s turn in the dunk tank. With the mayor sitting at the council table just a few feet away, Burlington resident **ALBERT PETERSEN** barked what might be the ultimate insult to Queen City politics.

"Mrs. you went from **new to boss** in five months," Petersen said, referring to the former (and unpopular) Progressive mayor.

Dunk? Whipped by signs that read, "Mrs. Bitch Schilling, Then Burger" and "Mrs's Violent New Policing Style Has No Place

**I'M SURE HE WANTS  
THE AD TO COME DOWN  
BECAUSE IT'S A POSITIVE AD  
ABOUT MY ACTUAL RECORD**

**BILL SORRELL**

dent expenditures" (i.e., in support of or opposition to candidates, rather than disbursement to that year in light of recent federal court rulings).

Sorrell's non-alignment decision came in response to news that two liberal legislators — **BOB FLETCHER** and **TIMOTHY GALEY** — intended to establish Vermont's first super PAC. The updated Super PACs have a license to spend whatever they want in Vermont.

Domanus admitted that he agrees with Sorrell's reading of the law — that corrupt Uncle Sues, in fact, permit super PACs to spend unlimited sums on Vermont elections. But he said, "This is different than what's legal. This is about leadership and doing what is right."

And if a pro-Domanus super PAC wanted to spend \$94,000 promoting his campaign, he'd ask them to take the ad down? Domanus clause he would.

Uh-huh. Right.

The super PAC sponsoring the Sorrell ad is called the Committee for Justice and Fairness PAC. According to publicly available Internal Revenue Service

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is Vermont's "sensitive artists" dressed down the new mayor for backing the cops' use of force before an investigation into the police's actions had even begun. Almost everyone called for an independent investigation into the EPD's use of force, rather than the internal review Scherling has undertaken.

Burlingtonian **JONATHAN LEVITT**, who sustained 19 bruises from being held, pulled, and yanked before being effectively headlined large protests — at Vermont Yankee last year, at U.S. Sen. **ROBERT CLAYTON** Wisconsin office in 1984 — without using projectiles.

"Something has fundamentally been ruptured in the social fabric of our community," Levitt testified. "This is not the fresh start that people voted for."

by, with increasing fire like that. Weinberger must have been swinging rubber bullets, right?

Handy, he measured, inexcusable tone. Weinberger deployed his secret weapon for de-escalating tense situations, a bland written statement. The mayor said he "appreciated" hearing from concerned citizens and added, "I fully share the goal expressed by many of the speakers here tonight that Burlington remain — as it long has been — a place where all citizens can safely and confidently express their views publicly on all topics."

**ZANES** — Oh, sorry. What Weinberger said EPD's internal review would wrap up in two weeks and preliminary findings would be made public. The police chief will present his report to the Burlington Police Commission, the civilian body appointed by the council to oversee the cop shop, and the public can testify at that meeting, Weinberger said. What, if anything, comes out of that is up to the commission.

Outside council chambers afterward, the mood among occupiers was noticeably less tense. Asked if the police commission's review would satisfy demonstrators' call for an "independent" investigation, Levitt seemed unsure: "I think we'll all be hearing up on the police commission," he said.

## Media Notes

In long, Montpelier Hills Hotel

Vermont Press Bureau reporter **THATCHER HARRIS** is holding farewell to Vermont and heading west to paradise. Harris, who was part of the three-person team covering state politics for the *Star-Messenger Times Argus* and the *Stuffed Head*, is moving his family to the big island of Hawaii in September.

Montpelier will have from Hawaii, and the class is moving to the town of Jello

— population 40,000 — to be closer to her family. Monte says they're packing two cars and all their belongings into a shipping container and putting it on a boat bound for the Aloha State.

Under the golden dome, Monte earned a reputation as a dogged reporter and a mean guy this last day was July 30. (As an aside, Thatcher's dad is Pulitzer Prize winner **DAVID HENES**, editorial writer for the *Boston Herald*.)

Monte the younger tells *Five* Gator he has no job lined up and isn't sure he'll stay in the news biz. "I don't seem to be sweating it. And why should he? A capable journalist like him will surely land on his feet. Plus, he's moving to Hawaii, not Fargo."

"It'll probably be 75 degrees and sunny, like it is in all year round, and it's fantastic."

Go ahead, dude. Rub it in. As the *Huronian* would say, *cheer*! Thatcher (roughly translated: goofball, and we mean again). And, as former vice president **BARACK OBAMA** famously said of America's 48th state, "Hawaii has always been a very special role in the Pacific. It is in the Pacific. It is a part of the United States that is so special that it might have."

Time Do as thou art.

## The Great Debate

And finally, a shameless plug: If you see no other debate in the Democratic primary for attorney general, come to the Seven Days/Channel 17 debate at Burlington City Hall tonight (August 16) at 8 p.m. Channel 17 will broadcast the debate live, and there will be an embedded stream and live chat on our website, [seven-days.com](http://seven-days.com).

The candidates will take live questions from audience members and from Twitter and Facebook (Twitter hashtag #VTAG). Channel 17's **JAM WILSON** will moderate, and L. political columnist **MARK MONTE** and WCAX reporter **KEVIN CHILSON** will serve as moderators, or media producers.

Questions are unanswered between Barrett and Donovan, and this may be the night they finally feel over. You wouldn't want to miss that, would you?

Regular *Five* three columnist Paul Harris is an aviation and will return next week.

Listen to Paul Weinberger's podcasts at 7:40 a.m. on WNYT and AM.

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# Vermont's Lawbreaking Public Employees Can Still Collect Their Pensions

BY KIM PICARD

**L**ast year, Joyce Ballance pled guilty to stealing \$1.6 million from the Hawdick Electric Department. She was sentenced to three and a half years in federal prison and ordered to pay more than \$1.1 million in restitution to her former employer.

Ballance owes another \$480,000 to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, which covered the insurance claim on her death from the public utility.

How will the now disgraced former officer or manager, who perpetrated the largest embezzlement in Vermont history, be able to make those payments?

From her taxpayer-funded pension. Records provided by the Vermont State Treasurer's Office reveal that since December 1, 2010, Ballance has been receiving \$4,498.42 per month in pension payments from the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System. For her 38 years of "creditable service," that works out to be roughly \$30,000 a year — for life.

Ballance voluntarily agreed to put half of her monthly retirement check into an escrow account to pay off her debt, but the law could not force her to do so. Under state law, courts can mandate paycheck deductions for child support or alimony but not to pay off public debts.

Twenty-five states have enacted laws allowing the collection of pensions from public officials and employees convicted of felonies — mostly as a result of high-profile corruption scandals. Vermont and New Hampshire are the only northeastern states with no such law on the books.

Ballance, who spent the stolen money on Pottery Barn furniture and down payments on houses for her two children, isn't the only convicted public

employee entitled to a taxpayer-funded pension. Kirby Laing, a former supervisor at the Vermont Department for Children and Families, was sentenced to 33 months in prison and ordered to pay more than \$400,000 in restitution for theft, embezzlement and illegal sales tax returns. According to the state treasurer's office, Laing's 18 years of employment with the state also qualify her for a taxpayer-funded pension.

Ditto for Suzanne LaBombard, the former Isle LaMotte town clerk, treasurer and tax collector who can expect in 2007 to embezzle at least \$100,000 from the town over five years. LaBombard, who worked for the town for 22 years, will be eligible to collect her pension from the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System when she turns 65, in about 11 years.

Jim DeGroot, the former Vermont State Police sergeant accused last month of doctoring his time-card with overtime

he allegedly didn't work, newly doubled his annual salary of \$40,000. DeGroot's 22 years on the job qualify him to receive a state pension, too, though his benefit may be adjusted to reflect only the time he actually worked.

Vermont Treasurer Beth Pearce would not comment specifically on the DeGroot

case or any other individual position. Nor could her office calculate exact pension payments for Laing, LaBombard, DeGroot or a half dozen other public employees convicted of embezzlement or other felonies in recent years. Those calculations are based on an employee's age, date of retirement, service options and other factors. But nearly all

public workers become eligible for pensions or refunds of their contributions after five years of creditable service.

Pearce explained that annuities and pensions are guaranteed to former public employees by law "and cannot be taken away," even if they're convicted of a felony perpetrated on the public dime. All the state can do is adjust payments downward if a felon ever incurs a wage.

Such adjustments may come as little consolation to Vermont taxpayers, who in recent years have been harmed repeatedly by high-profile embezzlements. In January, "The 2011 Maquet Report on Embezzlement" identified Vermont as having the country's highest risk of economic loss due to white-collar fraud.

Meanwhile, other states have been

## CRIME & PUNISHMENT



ILLUSTRATION BY JIMMY KIM

posting pension forfeiture laws. Maine adopted one in April that grants courts authority to seize public employees' pensions for offenses related to their official duties, and direct that money to court-ordered restitution. Nicknamed the "Violette Law," the statute was enacted after former state highway official Paul Violette pled guilty to pilfering more than \$200,000 in public funds over seven years.

Alabama adopted a pension forfeiture law three months ago that allows the state to revoke pensions of public employees and state officials convicted

of theft, embezzlement and wire fraud in the public schools between 2000 and 2011. The cost to taxpayers: \$415,000.

Salmom said that although his office hasn't specifically considered the issue of pension forfeiture, he suggested it would be "a valuable avenue for Vermont to have that discussion."

Convicted animal abusers can be forced to give up their pets, repeat drunk drivers can lose their vehicles and poachers can be banned from hunting in Vermont, remarked Sen. Vince Ichniowski (R-East/Windsor), the Essex County State's attorney and a

Republican candidate for state auditor.

"Clearly the president is there to do it," Ichniowski said, but pension forfeiture "has never been actively considered."

And if it were to be? Some would follow the logic of Sen. Kevin Mullin (R-Rutland). Although he wasn't aware that current Vermont law protects pensions, Mullin said, "These benefits should go back to whoever they stole the money from."

But Doug Hoffer, who's making a second run for the office of state auditor after his defeat to Salmom in 2010, said he's not convinced the legislature should wade into this mine.

"Societal change over time," Hoffer wrote in an email to Seven Days, "and the push/pull for consolidation/mergers could lose their force in society evolves." Minor: felonies 20 years ago may look much less serious 20 years from now.

"As a practical matter," Hoffer added, "stripping a convicted felon of a major source of income could create serious hardships for a family, which could force them to seek public assistance (a not to taxpayer). And, of course, it could limit his or her ability to pay fines or reparations." ☐

## THOSE BENEFITS SHOULD GO BACK TO WHOEVER THEY STOLE THE MONEY FROM.

STATE SEN. KEVIN MULLIN

Pennsylvania is considering expanding its pension forfeiture law to cover violent crimes such as sexual assault, following news reports that convicted child rapist and Penn State football coach Jerry Sandusky will receive a public pension of \$39,000 a year for life.

Why hasn't Vermont enacted a similar law?

"We just haven't had that discussion yet," said Rep. Dennis Iversen (D-Windsor) who chairs the House Government Operations Committee. Last year, lawmakers passed a bill aimed at preventing embezzlement but did not address pensions, including the possibility of pension forfeiture, for those found guilty. "I'm sure it's something we'll look at," Iversen added.

In February, State Auditor Tom Salmom issued a report on financial wrongdoing in the state's public school system that identified 25 incidents of

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## Are Burlington Restaurants Discriminating Against Québécois Customers?

By KATHRYN FLAGG

**B**urlington has been rolling out the red carpet this summer for its French Canadian visitors. From the "Bonnevue Québécois" stickers in storefront windows to a French-speaking greeter stationed at Church Street, the Queen City has gone to great lengths to create a place to demonstrate that the Québécois — and their tourist dollars — are welcome.

But at some local restaurants, the hospitality appears to be waning thin. At least two eateries admit they allow servers to add an automatic gratuity on the bill of diners who appear to be Québécois. Why? Because Canadians are presumed to be bad tippers. A few local servers even have a nickname for the vaudeville: They call it the "Quebec tax."

Sarah Haley and Anne-Marie Hemberger noticed the strange charge after a July meal at Splash at the Rathouse. Though the couple resides in Williston, Hemberger is originally from France. On this occasion, her French-speaking

nephew was visiting, so they all spoke French at dinner.

When the bill arrived for the party of three, Hemberger recalls that her first thought was "Well, that's steep." On closer examination, she realized it included an 18 percent tip.

Haley dismissed the waitress, who explained that she'd heard the family speaking French, and that the restaurant has "kind of a policy" to include the gratuity for parties that appear to be from Québec or Europe.

After Haley explained they lived in Williston, the waitress removed the extra gratuity. She got a 15 percent tip.

Hemberger complains of similar treatment at Autumn Noodle Shop. After dining with French-speaking friends at the Church Street restaurant, she has twice received bills with a gratuity included. The first time she paid her bill without comment. On the second occasion, after asking about the bill, Hemberger says the server told her the added gratuity was

a mistake and then corrected the check.

It wasn't a mistake, per se. Owner Steady Kong says that while the restaurant doesn't have an official policy, she lets servers decide whether to add a gratuity.

"If the Canadian customers were tipping at 15 percent, I wouldn't let them do that," Kong says of her waitstaff. But the Canadians are not, she alleges. On a single day last week, Kong says, one party left a \$8 tip on an \$80 bill, another left nothing for the server on a \$99 bill.

Splash takes a similar approach. Owner Barb Bardin is emphatic that there's no "policy" about the mandatory gratuities, but adds that her young waitstaff works too hard to get stiffed on that. Like Kong, Bardin says she's baffled about how best to go about "educating" foreign customers about tipping practices in the United States, and the views attaching the gratuity automatically as "helpful guide."

"Because the servers really have such a hard time with it, I just leave it up to them," says Bardin, who tells her wait staff, "You do what you feel is appropriate for you."

Similar scenarios in other states have led to lawsuits. In 1999, a diner named Charles Thompson called 911 after a 15 percent tip was tacked onto his bill at a Thai restaurant in Alaska Beach, Fla. Thompson, who is African American, told police that when he asked about the automatic gratuity, the restaurant owner explained it by saying, "Black people don't tip well." Thompson's complaint prompted the Florida attorney general to file a lawsuit against the restaurant owner, and in 2009 the owner settled the charges by paying \$15,000 and instituting a uniform tipping policy.

The Vermont Human Rights Commission hasn't received any complaints about mandatory tips, according to executive director Robert Appel. But even an anecdotal report from multiple red flags. National origin is one of several protected classes under Vermont's "public accommodations" statutes, which means that the refusal of restaurants to refuse service to anyone based on their country of origin, race, sexual orientation or disability.

"It would seem contrary to the intent of the law to single out a subset of customers based on one of these protected categories and subject them to differential treatment," Appel explains. "What do you do with cheap natives? What

**Tourism**

happens if you get stiffed as a tourist? I don't think dishing on tip or sneaky tip service is restricted to any one [group of people]."

Several Burlington-area servers, most of whom spoke only on condition of anonymity, admitted they are often less than thrilled to find Québécois customers seated in their sections — not just because of the tipping issue but because of a perception that French Canadian customers are more demanding but must *not* love, or won't

adapt to, any auto-tipping policy issued at French Canadian.

In fact, some restaurants specifically forbid servers from adding an automatic gratuity.

That's the case at Three

Tomatoes Trattoria on Church Street. Server Jen Brando, who waits tables outdoors, would like to see the restaurant print out suggested tip amounts on the receipt that comes with the bill they present to customers.

But that hasn't solved the problem at Amato Noodle Shop, where every receipt includes a note suggesting an 18 to 20 percent tip. Despite this, server Devin Morley says she's seen some Canadian customers ask diners at nearby tables about the local tipping customs.

Brando says the manager at Splish balked at putting a note on receipts or menus because she thought it would be tacky. "We're damned no matter what you do," Brando says.

Hudson is personally sympathetic to servers who fear their customers will slip the tip, but she also recognizes foreigners to pay extra is "discriminatory." It also appears to be illegal. Her solution, she says, Burlington restaurants should get on "the same page" about how to handle the tipping conundrum.

The Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce has encouraged restaurants to translate means into French, and recommends adding a polite, diplomatic note on French-language menus explaining the local customs. Chamber director of communications Gen Burrell hadn't heard about the practice of mandatory tipping, but says that Burlington businesses have a responsibility both to welcome and educate Canadian visitors.

Are customs in the north really that different? Québécois waitstaff earn a minimum \$4.85 an hour, plus any tips they make. Vermont restaurants pay servers as little as \$4.50 an hour, but if hosts, waiters, waitresses and bartenders don't make enough in tips over the course of a week to bring the wage up to the state's minimum — \$6.46 an hour — the employer makes up the difference.

Officially, voluntary tipping is customary on both sides of the border. According to Tourism Québec, tipping

is de rigueur in restaurants, bars, taxis and hair salons. Customers are expected to tack on 10 to 15 percent of the pre-tax bill.

But Alex Hudon, a Montreal native who is a server

and waitress at American Bistros in Burlington, says many restaurants in her home city add an automatic gratuity. She recommends checking the menu — and the bill — or asking about the restaurant's policy.

"It's just the way it works there," says Hudon. "That's why I think, for the most part, they may not tip as much."

This summer, anyway, more French Canadians are coming. The chamber's Burrell says local hotels and bed and breakfasts are reporting more visitors than in 2011. The chamber's website uses a Google plugin to translate the site into French, and the number of visitors using the translation service is up 20 percent over last summer. Burrell says the actual economic impact of French Canadian tourism is hard to estimate, but insists it extends beyond just a "goodwill" relationship.

"I think it's absolutely essential to the health and vibrancy of [Vermont] tourism," she says.

Hudson agrees. "I am bringing in my White neighbors." While she sympathizes with all those disgruntled servers, Hudson says she's reluctant to place the blame on foreign tourists — many of whom, including those from Canada, speak English.

"Any server who is not appropriately tipped for the service they provide, regardless of where the customer is from, is disappointed," she says.

But, to the French say, C'est la vie. ☺

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Congressman Welch  
Senator Sanders  
Senator Leahy  
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## Performers Span the Decades at the Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival

by Amy Lilly

Andrew Ross

**A**ttending a concert at the Marlboro Music Festival will almost certainly spell the summer for all live chamber music. It doesn't get much better than Marlboro, where for more than 60 years the world's elite and rising musicians have gathered every summer to explore classical music in depth without the pressure of preprogrammed concert deadlines.

But, for northern Vermont audiences, it's kind of a haul to get there. Fortunately for those who live far from the Bennington-Friedeborn parallel, violinist **ANNA LEE** is bringing a core of fellow Marlboro musicians to Colchester to play in this year's **LEE & HARRIS: THE NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL**.

Kim, who founded the now 6-year-old festival and serves as its artistic director, says he didn't necessarily get to know all the musicians on this year's

program at Marlboro. "It's such a small musical world at that sort of level, we're constantly running into each other," he picks out, "but most of them have played at Marlboro."

Among those are musicians Bella Hristova, Hye-Jin Kim and Arnold Steinhardt. In 2004, Steinhardt co-founded the Quatuor Quatuor at Marlboro, which was among the world's most acclaimed until he retired three years ago. Other musicians from Marlboro include violinist Misha Aronov, cellist Sophie Shao and part-time Vermont and LOCMF composer-in-residence David Gilling.

And one not to miss is the great Jonathan Shim, who at age 38 has already achieved international fame for his amazingly thoughtful playing. Shim says he first met Kim, who is five

years his senior, at Marlboro in 1970 — first, and Kim's second, summer there. The two now attend every other year to mentor and learn from one rising star. When Kim first told Shim he was starting his own festival, the pianist recalls, "I wasn't at all surprised. Kim has this natural ability to rally people together. When he gets excited about something, everyone does."

Kim, in turn, declares Shim "one of the greatest [pianists] we have in our time. Especially at his age, not many achieve that kind of fame playing the classical German repertoire" — Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Brahms. "He doesn't often play things like Liszt," Kim adds, "which is easier for a younger player to use to showcase his virtuosity." At the five-concert LOCMF, Kim will

play the concluding piece in each of the final two concerts: Mozart's Piano Concerto in C Major, and Schumann's Piano Quartet in E-flat Major. Schumann has lately become something of an obsession for the pianist. Kim is about to embark on an eight-month, 30-concert, international Schumann tour. According to his volatile and introspective website, Kim not only loves but feels "profoundly" of the Romantic-era composer.

Asked why, Kim explains, "So often when people say they love Schumann, they say it slightly apologetically, as if his music is lacking in vigor." It's the music's "sense of vulnerability," stemming from Schumann's history of mental instability, that makes Kim want to defend it. "You want somehow to be able to rewrite history in such a way that things turned out better for him," Kim adds.

Though a only eight days long, the LOCMF includes many more must-hears.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Your concert programs will feature original compositions by two women composers: 21-year-old Gabriella Smith, a former LCCME Young Composers Seminar participant returning to hear the premiere of her new work, titled simply "Watch Premiere," and distinguished visiting composer Jean Tower (she describes Tower's music as "very colorful, extremely inventive and extremely vibrant. Even if you're not familiar with much contemporary music, it has a quality that lets you grab it, that forces you to sit up and listen.")

Standards will play the "Chaconne," the final movement of Beethoven's Piano in D Minor for solo violin. To get an idea of how moving and virtuosic this quintessential violin solo piece is, listeners can hear Kim playing it live in the studio of Beaton's public-radio station, WGH, on a recent "Down Time Live" episode, available online.

**SOON HE HAS THIS  
NATURAL ABILITY TO  
RAILY PEOPLE TOGETHER  
WHEN HE GETS  
EXCITED ABOUT  
SOMETHING,  
EVERYONE ODES.**

JONATHAN BISS

Kim herself is a musician at "that sort of level" and will be playing in each of the five concerts. It's pure luck — and truly a pleasure for the rest of us — that he spent his childhood in Pittsburgh from the age of 8, joined the **YOUTH ORCHESTRA** at 10 and has decided to bring top talent back to the area every year.

While Jonathan Biss will be among the younger musicians in this year's LCCME, another piece on the program is among the oldest extant: 69-year-old Frank Glazer of Topsham, Maine. Glazer has been a Bates College artist-in-residence for the last 32 years (he was featured on a recent episode of *American Public Radio's "The Story,"* in which he said he felt himself to be a better pianist than ever. Asked if he's heard of Glazer, Biss comments admiringly, "No — but good for him!")

Glazer Kim connected to Glazer through the latter's nephew, **KENNETH ODELL**, who directs the Waterville-based **YOUTH ORCHESTRA PROJECT**. Each year, the nonprofit sends what Kim calls "a small array of writers" to listen to and write about LCCME concerts. "It's wonderful, because we get to read about how the music is moving them," Kim adds.

Glazer is scheduled to give a one-hour listening-club performance called "Glazer Plays Bach," but the energetic-sounding and pre-sharp musician says he intends to sit in a piece by Beethoven, two by Chopin and two Liszt pieces as well, including Liszt's "Regina's Paraphrase," a piano reduction of a quartet from the Verdi opera. He'll also shut up his new book, *A Philosophy of Artistic Performance* (With Some Practical Suggestions).

Glazer describes his book as "a body of information. Not knowing is a luxury." The work assembles aptly chosen wisdom accumulated over 29 years of teaching "hundreds and hundreds" of students. It ultimately dates back to the lessons he learned about the importance of artistry over mechanics from his first significant teacher, Arthur Schnabel. The Austrian's recorded interpretations of Beethoven are still considered definitive. Glazer studied with him for a year in Berlin in 1982.

"This was before chewing gum and Kimo Preilly," Glazer recalls. "I was there when they burnt the Reichstag. It was a terrible time, but it was a good time for artists." In late May 1944, when Schnabel fled the nascent Nazi Party, Glazer followed him to Italy's Lake Como, then five months before returning to the U.S. to launch his career. He went on to premiere on Aaron Copland's piece at his Carnegie Hall debut, and so much at the Eastman School of Music for 18 years, among other accomplishments.

Meanwhile, at Bates, where Glazer has "known [his] fourth president" the pianist says, "They've offered to keep me on as long as I want." That could lead them one morning, he adds, "I may make it to 200." ☐

**F** LIKE CHAIRMAN LINDSEY HUNTER, FRANK GLAZER HAS A LOT TO SAY ABOUT MUSIC. He'll be playing at the Bates College Music Center on Thursday, August 13, at 7 p.m. in the Chapel Music Center. For Urban Area: Collaborative and other venues located.

For all Frank Glazer plays and eight books at the Bates College Music Center, please join the Listening Club on Wednesday, August 20, 7 p.m. at the Chapel Music Center. For Urban Area: Collaborative

UNDERSTANDING IN CHINESE MEDICINE  
HOW ACUPUNCTURE, HERBS, AND OTHER FINE ARTS CAN HELP

**YES.**

JACOB ALBEE  
GOLDSMITH

JACOB AND KATHY ALBEE  
JACOB GOLDSMITH: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 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# A Shelburne Museum Exhibit Demonstrates That Quilting Is for Real Men

By Megan James

It is an exhibit "Men Made Quilts: Civil War to the Present," the **Shelburne Museum** it presents some garments for the collection, most accompanied by great stories. But one thing might set some female viewers off: The show celebrates men picking up a women-dominated craft and doing it with at least as much, if not more, creativity than their female counterparts.

The exhibit is actually doesn't set out to make women quilters seem boring. Instead, it explores the "outsider" quality of quilts made by men. "Men took up quilting because they were wounded in a war and needed a cooperative activity," explains senior curator **Joan Jacobs**, who began exploring the role men have played in quilt making for this exhibit about two years ago. Men also turned to quilting to commemorate events, but, just as often, men simply wanted to compete.

"Men appear to come up with an idea or proposition and then study the techniques to execute it," a placard in the exhibit reads. This subject-first approach differs from that of women, "who harness color and the requisite sewing, piecing and quilting skills and then select a known

pattern to demonstrate their proficiency."

The roughly 20 quilts in the list and **Prospect's Textile Gallery** through October are on loan from other museums and private collections, with the exception of a quilt made by a Union soldier during the Civil War, which is part of the Shelburne Museum's permanent collection and is spread the exhibit.

While recovering from wounds sustained in battle, the discharged soldier — whose identity is unknown — poured hours into this striking quilt. Repetitive, meditative handwork was seen as therapeutic, but, as a descriptive notes, this soldier "did not quite get away from it all." Images of armed soldiers and horses march steadily across his quilt.

In a room filled with contemporary quilts, **Ken Francisco** at **Henry's** called quiltmaker **Laure Daynes** "Men Quilt '91" is a standout. He presents an elegant subtle depiction of his father's business being diagonally on an olive-green and orange quilt, relying on the perspective and movement as **Thomas Callaghan** "The Race Across."

In a decidedly male display of technical



skills and whistles, a circular quilt depicting the sun's planets and stars is measured, keeping it constantly opening and humming on the wall. **Steve** hangs a default half-white, half-quilted piece by **Jeffrey Gutches**. Jacobs says when Gutches first showed it, people reacted with "When are you going to finish it?"

In the gallery's next room, quilts track the eye and build the mind. **Pennyfrank** quiltmaker **George Williams** uses thousands of

tiny tiny pieces of fabric to create intricate wall hangings. He would go smaller, a placard explains, if only he could find smaller needles.

**Prayer** Jacobs' "Cabbage" appears to be a brightly colored quilt, folded a few times and draped over a clothesline. But, on closer examination, the piece is revealed to be a convincing, painted-on quilt. **Frank**, but proof, doublechecked via more than two sample versions of Jacobs' work.

## Weathering a Real 'Tempest,' the Show Goes On for Vermont Shakespeare Company

By Lind Sky J. WESTLEY

It is time for a performance of **The Tempest** to be canceled — once — by rain. Actors and audiences were sent scrambling for cover on both Friday and Saturday nights in North Hero as rain sheeted across the open-air stage, robbing viewers of the prospect of one acting but one to temper with stage and audience.

But starts the risk you take when performing outdoors in Vermont, at **The Vermont Shakespeare Co.** **Henry's** executive director, **John Nagle**, carefully acknowledged as his introductory remarks: "We were going to do, *The Winter's Tale* next year — but after this year's tempest, maybe we won't."

Still, the veteran director and his wife, artistic director **Ann Anderson**, were ready to weather a real storm for the sake of the show. (His show went on in its 50th year producing Shakespeare in **Sage Point State Park** in North Hero, and the first year they will also perform at **Calabogie Park** in Burlington — this coming week.) And the company started out in 2008, Naggan's parents, who live in Albany, suggested that the two teenagers of the

New York stage put on a little show in a basement for the **Champlain Islands Festival** **Child Center** in **Albany** looking for the show to blossom into a full-blown theater company.

"We've both trained as Shakespearean actors," Nagle says. "In fact, we met during a run of **Richard III**, so we just went whole hog, brought in a bunch of people we knew and started a little stage out of the woods to start our own theater company."

The couple, who live in New Jersey and regularly perform in New York, are committed to ongoing performances in North Hero, but aim to test the waters for Shakespeare's appeal with this year's **Beheading**.

"The **William Shakespeare Festival** started out in the same way ours did, in the woods with a simple performance of **A Midsummer Night's Dream** and now it's a huge institution," Nagle says. "We feel there's a gap to fill left by the **Burlington Shakespeare Festival**, because, even as a crowd of veteran theatergoers, you can always find someone who has never seen Shakespeare performed live."



There's something magical about seeing these works in an open-air theater. **The Tempest** is set on an island and takes place entirely outdoors, so when the actors suddenly appear from their leafy "dressing room" to deliver **Prospero's** magical request, the trees seem to herald his solicitation. The current of magic first invoked by **Prospero's** incantations remains high throughout the show, whether that spark is embodied by the insects, Callaghan like

**Callaghan** (Dean Lennett, revived by the **Shakespeare Festival**) and **Stephano** (**Christopher Haynes**) and **Trinculo** (**Colin Smith**) or reflected in the eyes of the two young lovers.

With professional actors largely pulled from **Prospero** and **Nagle's New York** — many, the professional actors pay — and the staging, even more so, **Anderson** has among the trees and around the grassy stage like the movable spirit the penguins, while the

she mounted on the wall.

The contemporary quilts are beautiful and surprising, but the background stories are even better as the next room, which is filled with quilts from another era.

The description of an 1844 "Pottam County" quilt top made from 1800-1 and -2

## MEN TOOK UP QUILTING BECAUSE THEY WERE WOUNDED

IN A WAR AND NEEDED A  
RECREATIVE ACTIVITY.

JEAN BURKS

half each square reads like the intriguing first line of a thriller: "Seventeen-year-old Dwight Bradley made his quilt top while recovering from an accident with an ax."

Sentimental pillowcases may get teeny-teeny readings about Carl Klewicz's "Wedding Quilt" from 1904, made from gingham, carving steps of silk, satin and tulle. Klewicz, who emigrated to the United States from Germany in 1885, was a skilled tailor with no children — until a 15-month-old baby girl appeared on his and his wife's doorstep. He made the quilt, vibrant with triquetra-patterned scraps

as a dove with wings outstretched, from scraps left over from his tailoring business and gave it to his adopted daughter as her wedding day.

Other quilts offer mysteries: Benjamin Franklin Peckham, a street painter and bricklayer in Portland, Maine, made one in the 1840s out of simple rectangular patches. "It's no coincidence that the color scheme and organization of the individual and whole cloth pieces represent the size and shape of Portland sidewalk bricks laid out in a traditional herringbone paving pattern," reads the description. But why did he turn to quilting and how did he learn?

Albert Broad turned to quilting on a dare. In 1900s Illinois, after he turned his wife and her quilting group about a piece they'd worked on for weeks, the women challenged him to make his own. He made three, one of which broke a quilting record for most pieces in the world, with 123,000 tiny hexagonal pieces.

The quilt, "Hexagon Mosaic #2," is mesmerizing, with yellow, pink and blue stars seemingly bursting from the fabric. For a certain kind of competitive female viewer, it's enough to inspire her to dust off the old sewing machine and try for something bigger. ☐

**▶ More reads:** [quilt.org/pdq/pdq.htm](http://quilt.org/pdq/pdq.htm)  
Pinterest's quilts made by men  
[dailystitch.com/Through-the-ages/25-40s-202-2046-2049/quilting-museum](http://dailystitch.com/Through-the-ages/25-40s-202-2046-2049/quilting-museum)

physical remedy created by Gilman and the two sisters is not just and perfectly timed. When Trinette curls under a pile of rags, with which Gilman has disguised himself to escape a second arrest, the resulting quagmire of her tangled limbs is worthy of a "Saturday Night Live" skit.

For more than a decade, from the streets of Baltimore and Charleston, down the shores of Chesapeake Bay to the pine forests of Maine, young love on stage has become a low point in the emotional current, something to be endured before returning to the high jinks of a Pottam, Peck or Colburn. In the shoddily hand-drawn illustrations, Mervin Kerner, Suzanne and Nick Peters, Miranda and Fredrickson are fully drawn characters far greater than the stars of their respective lives and careers.

Costume designer Becky Bodark has taken a contemporary view of the constraints for the shipwrecked couple, leading an edge note to the production. The dignified speech master and ex-squidier Gersho (Steven Cook) is outfitted in an apple overcoat that lends levity to his quips. "It's not, it's my doublet as fresh as the first day I wore it!" as he tags at the diamond-patterned cotton. The clothing lines and wires by the sweeping Antonio is similarly remarkable, if only Patrick Markey could make the villains with a touch more femininity.

Lincoln pines better and said out the

creaking, scratched line Gilman, spending much of the performance launched over on his knuckles. The exquisite teeth grinding and dirty garments equally represent Gilman's evil nature, but Lincoln does well to release a touch of pathos, as well.

Ultimately, though, it's a short career between Ariel and Prospero (Michael Sean McGowan) that is most under- "Do you love me, myself? No!" she asks Prospero pauses before answering, "Dear, my delicate Ariel," creating a charged moment that it's easy to overlook when reading the simple poem. This interpretive choice is difficult and unexpectedly touching, considering that Ariel's gender is generally treated as ambiguous. Played by a male, the spirit could easily have been a Puck to Prospero's Oberon, but here, the female casting creates a lasting moment of tenderness.

Artistic choices such as that one make this performance of *The Tempest* masterful. With delicately timed interactions, Nigle and his cast bring new interpretations to the centuries-old tale. ☐

**▶ The Tempest, produced by Vermont Shakespeare Company Friday August 11 through Sunday August 15 8 p.m. plus 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday in Colchester Park Amphitheater 525 S. 3rd St. 554-7671 [vermontshakespeare.org](http://vermontshakespeare.org)**

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# WHISKEY t ANGo Fo Xt Rot

We just had to ask...

## Why is there a drive-up window at Akes' Place?

By Sarah Smith

**T**his time of year, Burlington's Church Street Marketplace is teeming with people walking, talking, shopping, eating and generally getting in the way. Respectfully with the summer construction of Church Street's "Lafayette" project, there's barely room to walk around, let alone drive a car, on the pedestrian thoroughfare. And yet, just off Church Street, in the Red Square alley on the south side of Akes' Place, a sign hangs, covered in graffiti and stickers, that advertises a drive-up window.

WTF?

When I asked the bartender at Akes', she replied with a shrug. "It's really old, I guess."

Red Square employees don't know anything about the oddity, either. I'd hoped to uncover a rumor, or some kind of weird history behind the window. "Sometimes the light above it goes on," one waitress reported, "but I've never seen it open."

Unable to reach an owner at Akes' Place, I took the bartender's tip to meet and talked to the Chithead on County Historical Society and Preservation Burlington for an answer.

According to Mary O'Neill, of Preservation Burlington and the city's department of planning and zoning, the Red Square alley used to host a tannery, a meat market, livery stables and an inn called the Chempion Hotel. And it's not actually an alley but a public thoroughfare. Called Mechanics Lane, the street combines what Burlingtonians might

think of as two alleys — the one that hosts Red Square's outdoor live music in the summer, and the one that cuts between Flanagan's Pub and Stone Soup on College Street.

"The Akes' Place property, at 152-154 Church Street, was built in 1901, and until the 1960s it housed a meat market on the first floor. O'Neill speculates that the window could originally have been used as a place for the meat cutter to toss carcass scraps into an alley receptacle, or maybe to "facilitate access between these associated businesses" or even as a convenient "take out" window for the neighboring Chempion Hotel."

But the building's current owner, Robert Smith, remembers that 234 Church Street was once the site of Salomon's bar, a tailor and dry-cleaning business that occupied the building from 1952 to 1966. Smith guesses that the window might have been a place for customers to drop off and pick up their clothing. "It's popular in other states," he says, "so I can imagine Burlington might have had a drive-through dry-cleaning service."

In more recent history, the building was the site of a real estate agency, Century 21 The Martin Agency. In a 1990 photo from the Flanagan and

Zoning office, the sign reads, "Drive Up Window for Martin Real Estate." Again, WTF?

Glen Martin, who has since retired from the real estate business, says the drive-up window was already in place when his agency moved in, and they never used it. "We had other notions who would come in and laugh about it, but, no, we never opened it."

The agency kept the drive-up window, though, because the building's then-owner, Mary Arthur, had obtained zoning approval for it back when the building was an Italian restaurant in the early 1940s.

"Golly! She was a character," Martin remembers of Arthur. "Write a feature of Burlington. Back when we were in that office [from 1988 to 1990], she always used a walker. She'd come in to make sure we were taking care of the place, and next thing I knew, she'd be on a step ladder, dusting off the light fixtures."

The window remained — perhaps in case the building ever housed a restaurant again. But there hasn't been a full-service eatery at 234 Church Street in 25 years, since the departure of Italian restaurant La Bottega — which snagged a mention in a 1985 *New York Times* travel piece on Burlington. Smith suspects

that the window "probably will never be used. It's far country down there," he adds. "I don't think they can serve through a window."

Could they? The point may be moot. According to a zoning clerk at Burlington City Hall, Mary Arthur's careful preservation of La Bottega's drive-up window may have been for naught. "In order to retain zoning rights on that window, it would have to be in continuous use," the clerk says. "If the window wasn't used for a year or more, anyone attempting to reinstate its drive-through use would need to reapply for a zoning permit, at Mechanics Lane in a public street."

Though it hasn't been used since 1966 and Church Street has long since been paved over for pedestrian-only access, the window's bell still works (I tried it). Maybe someday the drive-through will return to active use. Church Street cravers? Casual lunch food truck line from a brick-and-mortar diner instead? Walk-up bachelors? Or, maybe, a New Orleans-style window-service bar? Stay tuned, Burlington, but don't hold your breath. ☐

Submitted, or nearly submitted, about this mystery? Send your burning Q to [q@burlingtononline.com](mailto:q@burlingtononline.com).



PHOTO BY SARAH SMITH

PHOTO BY SARAH SMITH

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PHOTO BY SARAH SMITH

PHOTO BY SARAH SMITH

Dear Cecil,  
In a recent Straight Dope Message Board thread about transsexuals, one commenter offered the following: "People who have gender identity disorders ... are just dudes dressing up as chicks and/or dudes who have gotten a doctor to mutilate them to have emulated female genitalia (or the other way around for women, I guess)." DID patients have a mental illness and society should be looking for ways to eradicate that mental illness through some form of treatment? Or isn't the equivalent of giving a paranoid schizophrenic who thinks he's Napoleon a loopy hat and a saber? Care to comment?

#### Startled Lunker

I'm not inviting that guy to the next meeting of my LGBT support group. However, from a certain perspective, he's got a point.

Standard medical opinion is that transsexuals are mentally ill. The revised fourth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* offers a long description of gender identity disorder that boils down to this: You think you're the wrong sex, and you're not happy about it. The *International Statistical*



*Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems* calls it transsexuals and defines it this way: "A desire to live and be accepted as a member of the opposite sex, usually accompanied with a sense of discomfort with, or inappropriateness of, one's anatomic sex, and a wish to make his or her body as congruent as possible with the preferred sex through surgery and hormone treatment."

Put it, most transsexuals agree there's something wrong with them. The difference is, they think it's with their bodies, while sympathetic outsiders say it's with their heads.

The professional view of transsexuals is evolving. DAM-VI, currently under development, proposes replacing gender identity disorder with "gender dysphoria." From what I can see, that is merely an exercise in euphemisms. You still think you're the wrong sex, and you're still not happy about it. But others think the whole notion of transsexuals as a disorder should be abandoned. For example, in 2009 the French health ministry declared it would no longer classify transsexuals as a psychiatric condition.

Not to put all peace-and-love about it, but the case usually is unopinionated. DAM-III dropped the old classification of homosexuality as a disorder

because of the dawning realization that whenever guys and lesbians might be unhappy about it, it wasn't about being gay or lesbian as such — the main issue was social disapproval. In contrast, even with all the social acceptance in the world, transsexuals are still going to think they're the wrong sex.

Why they do so is unknown. Some researchers think a percentage of transsexuals have an underlying physiological condition, essentially a wrong-pendulum/brain. Regardless, few in the field believe transsexual impulses can be eradicated or cured. The choices are some combination of hormones and surgery, or else you just deal.

The surgery part is what makes some people recoil. They cite another condition listed in the DSM, body integrity dysphoria, characterized by

the wish to have a part of your body amputated, typically the left arm or leg. You don't see anybody claiming BIDDers are pangs of mental health and doctors should merely saw away just another way to look at it: Is that sex reassignment surgery or amputation? transsexuals is more like a full-body tattoo. Would I do it? No, but I don't reach out to other people do.

The question is whether reassignment makes transsexuals happy. Most studies say yes, but that conclusion was questioned by the UK newspaper the *Guardian* in 2004. Having interviewed several 685 patients who said they were no happier after surgery and felt they'd

made a big mistake, the paper commissioned the Aggressive Research Investigative Faculty (ARIF) at the University of Birmingham to review the medical reports ARIF's conclusion: Most studies of 585 out-patients were fatally flawed, the major failing being that a huge percentage of 384 patients dropped out of sight.

For example, one study found that of 727 subjects who had undergone most to female, 563, 509 had a known address, 420 of those had a current known address, 417 of those were still alive, 338 of those agreed to participate, and 232 of those returned their forms. Of the last group, 58 percent cited their "happiness with result" as 8 or higher on a 10-point scale, not only four percent and 8 or below.

Not one study that say any way you want. The respondents are a pretty satisfied group, but what's up with the transsexuals?

Some are simply dead. A large-scale 2003 study from the Netherlands found transsexuals had much higher than normal death rates due to suicide, drug abuse, AIDS, and so on. Then again, other studies have concluded that while post-op have high suicide rates, pre-op are even higher.

The subject deserves more investigation. If I were desperate enough to consider sex reassignment surgery seriously, I'd still want to be done as it would help.

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# Cool and Collected

From Disney knickknacks to shrunken heads, these Vermonters' collections are far from common

BY KATHRYN FLAGG, KEVIN J. KELLEY, KEN PICARD AND PAMELA POLETON



**T**he human brain is a pattern-recognition machine. We seem to be hardwired to search for and gather objects that share certain characteristics, regardless of those items' intrinsic value or ultimate utility. Next we sort, categorize and display our objects as creative and seasonal props, often to the befuddlement, consternation or even annoyance of family and friends, who can think of no better uses of each's space than the basement apiece.

What is it that fuels the collector's passion? Curiosity, certainly. Perhaps aesthetic attraction. For some, it's a desire to connect with a past as they never knew. For others, it could be a sleepless compulsion to complete an incomplete "set." And, of course, none might be holding a boarding pass for behind these other-organizational skills.

This week, *Life in Days* takes a look at seven passionate Vermonters and their unusual collections. In some cases, such as Glenn Ramser's vintage bicycles and Sidney Sitton's math jigsaw sets, an obsession shared with other collectors around the globe lends the objects monetary value. When it comes to Josh MacLean's shrunken heads and Ralph Farnsworth's paper cups from old fast food joints, maybe not so much.

This group of gifted planners illustrates the very human tendency to draw satisfaction from hoarding and gathering, even if the payoff is a Mickey Mouse mug.

KEN PICARD



## Old and Older

Ralph Furumorth might just be the collector to end all collectors.

Need contracting? Just step inside the 3600-square-foot homegrown museum he's built over more than three decades in New Haven. Interested in old Coca-Cola memorabilia? He's got a roomful. Road of 1930s license plates? So in Furumorth's — he's collected not just the company's tractors and model toys but hundreds of dealership brochures and tractor parts.

The backyard museum unfolds like this, as rooms after rooms seamlessly arranged by thematic object. Each one surely could reflect a lifetime spent compiling and curating. Not Furumorth, 73, lists the museum and its various facets that characterize most collectors. Instead, he's a generalist, interested in preserving "anything old." The making here on his property includes more 30 gas pumps, pulled out of filling stations and

from stores around Addison County. Above, high in the rafters, sit roughly three dozen auto machines, some more than 90 years old. Furumorth's garage is full of vintage farm tools, but he's also amassed with truly antique tractors. And he dominates the house as the place where he stores his "junk." The real treasure is tucked inside the museum.

There, a visitor can see a re-creation of a classic general store, complete with cans and jars on the shelves and an assortment of scales — not to mention 30-odd cash registers.

Furumorth saved glass milk bottles and receipt pads from now-defunct Vermont dairies, as well as the milking machines his father once used in the family dairy farm. The museum has a section filled with soccer balls — even parking stubs — from a lifetime of trips to Disney World. An electric Wrecked pump runs out "stated by Your Man" automatically. One room is devoted to a staggering 80 Edison photograph machines, many of which came from Furumorth's father's collection.

Visitors can bring to an antique hotel in a car, 1930, that ends a working time when Furumorth sits in his upholstered seats in the revolving grandstand. Furumorth credits his father and grandparents with passion on the collecting bug. They lived through the Great Depression and never threw away anything. He kept up the habit — archiving copies of the local *Addison County Independent*, saving papers about fires and lost food pots and restaurant menus. Furumorth also values in preserving the ephemera that otherwise might disappear: "You just don't see this stuff anymore," he observes.

Furumorth is a man of few words. In his last completed interview collection of "This old to add any more. I'm double-checking," he says. Is there a method to the man's life choices? "Some of it's old. Some of it's old," he says. And here he or when he started constructing the one-man museum, and he offers, "Just happened, I guess. Didn't have any special plan."

Luckily, Furumorth's collection speaks for itself.

KEVIN FLAUG

## Chief Mouseketeer

How does Steve McQueen, Waco's police chief of 17 years, spend his free time? Considering that he has the same name as the movie Hollywood actor once dubbed the "King of Cool," one might guess Waco's McQueen would collect race cars, vintage motorcycles or World War II firearms.

Try Tinker Bell pins and Mickey Mouse coffee mugs. Yes, Waco's top cop is an unabashed Disney fan. How much of a fan? McQueen wears a Mickey Mouse watch to work every day. His cell phone ringtone is the original "Mickey Mouse Club" theme song. Even his police cruiser sports a Mickey Mouse antenna topper. "Always has," he says. "Why not?"

McQueen, 51, first visited Disney World in 1974. He hasn't missed a year since 1982, and he and his wife, Jane — whose license plate reads "VTNKKRL" — honeymooned there 20 years ago. They've been known to go there as few times a year.

A major part of every trip is collecting and making new and vintage Disney memorabilia, McQueen explains.

"I probably leave every park map and schedule for every trip we've ever taken to Disneyworld since 1974," he says. That would be more than 50 trips.



In fact, the McQueens' Essex house includes a spare bedroom where they display more than 500 Disney pins they've purchased or traded at Disneyworld or in Disney stores. During these excursions, the couple never forgets to buy pins to trade with children, fellow collectors or Disney staffers, whom McQueen calls "trade members." Some of their pins go for \$200 or more.

"Oh, we've got that stuff all over the place," he says. "We've done five of the Disney movies, which are absolutely amazing. We cannot find better entertainment. You just better like Disney."

McQueen doesn't confine his hobby to his home. Displayed in his office are vintage Disney products, including a miniature Mickey Mouse phone, a toy race car from the 2000 animated Pixar film *Car* — "Lightning McQueen, of course," he notes — and a 1978 collection of record albums celebrating 30 years of Disney motion picture music. It's all sealed in the original plastic.

Hanging behind McQueen's desk is a black-and-white photo of Walt Disney with the quote, "It's kind of fun to be the employee."

"We always felt a connection to that kind of thinking," McQueen explains. "And it's part of our success."

This Sunday, August 16, the McQueens will be attending their daughter's wedding in England. Afterward, they'll see their Disney memorabilia to stay at Disneyworld Park, where they'll undoubtedly collect more swag.

In a profession where parishioners typically pride themselves on a tough-pipe demeanor, is McQueen at all concerned that his propensity for pins and pin trades will make him look, well, a bit girly? Not at all, McQueen says.

"I go to every church meeting with my Disney cups," he says. "To me, talking with me at meetings is a reminder that we cannot take ourselves too seriously."

— E.P.

Visitors to Furumorth's private museum can come by appointment. Call him at 453-2375.

Ent. And. Cal. 12/14/14 Pg. 29





## Cool and Collected

By Jeff Labrecque

### Tile Marker

The most beloved classic table-top games were often played in Chinese homes. And now, they're being rediscovered by a new generation of players. They're known as the "dormers" that are really tiny figures engaged in different occupations. That especially designed 1/8-inch-tall miniatures. And look at that ancient white dragon! Clearly, the visitors are players, too.

Most people in a classic Chinese game that some consider like a form of "war" or "strategy" but evidence suggests it was developed in the late 1400s. Though mah-jongg evolved from such older card games, it evolved into what is now three or four players or more, according to a number of historical rules. Completed and often considered, the game is actually addictive. And for this, designed with Chinese characters, numbers and patterns, are beautiful.

Stetson seems to know just about everything about mah-jongg. She has several decks of the game, some old, some new. She's been playing it for 30 years in San Francisco in the 1970s. "But I didn't really become a collector until we decided we only needed one, and decided to sell it off," Stetson explains.

By "we," she means her and her wife, Janet Townsend, 70, who plays mah-jongg.



Janet Townsend

but she's not a collector. And by "sell," Stetson really means "buy and sell." And by "we," she means "about eight or 10 sets we couldn't part with." Each of them was active play.

The sets Stetson shows off all have one thing in common: no jokers. These days, typical mah-jongg players (including myself) use sets that include eight jokers among their 144 tiles, and it's hard to imagine playing without them. It is Stetson and plays what she calls an "Asian" version of the game — the first sets imported from China, she explains, allowed for simpler gameplay than we know now. She isn't sure how, or why, plans began to appear.

Why have more than one set? Different

manufacturers created slight variations on the pieces to distinguish themselves (even Macy's and Gamble's department stores had their own mah-jongg sets at one time), and the fun was in searching for new ones.

Or, rather, unique ones. Americans went "bonkers" for mah-jongg in the 1920s, Stetson says, and several game companies hired players with foreign ties. The earliest ones came in "Western" like wooden boxes with little drawers that held the tiles and other accessories of the game. In the '50s and '60s, various plastics were developed, and they can be seen in the tiles Stetson shows off. Unlike (unlike to collectors of vintage jewelry) and its successor, the modern Casino



"Everything started with bone-bamboo sent out of China," says Stetson, "and grew from that." Probably only rich people ever had every tile, she adds.

Spending of money, what do these vintage sets go for? Stetson says she has sold higher quality sets for \$150 to \$400 each. A "really special" one she owns, an "Asian" set in a hand-colored plastic, is worth upward of \$600.

But for Stetson, it's not just about the monetary value. "You collect old things because of their beauty and workmanship," she says, "none of these sets are 50 years old."

PAUL A. PAI FOR N.Y.

### Kingly Pursuits

Tom Theakley discovered Elvis Presley on a 45 in his grandmother's attic when he was about 1 year old. The song was "Hound Dog," the sound "beat on rock and roll," he says, and Theakley fell in love... with the King.

One of his first album purchases was Elvis Presley, he recalls, but it wasn't until years later that Theakley, now 45, began to collect Elvis. He took home in Lowell, Mass., he had an "Elvis shrine" in his bedroom. "You know that's where he died," Theakley explains with tongue-in-cheek reverence.

After he bought a home off the Massachusetts coast in Warren on 45 or 50 years ago, Theakley's guest room — he calls it the "Elvis room" — became the repository of all things Elvis. And the collection grew. In fact, he explains to marching veterans, waving his arm around the packed room, "if other people have given me most of this stuff."

The "stuff" includes some historic memorabilia but is mostly knock, a lamp featuring Elvis in black leather who stands three times his size when Theakley turns it on. Lots of dolls, cards and pens. A flipbook. A clock that plays a snippet of an Elvis tune on the hour, every hour. "I'd had to turn that off," Theakley admits. "You don't want to hear that at three in the morning." Videos of Presley movies, Elvis as a private shower cartoon, a beach box, a few dispensers. Elvis at success after a set of coming blues. Tux, scarves, hot sauce bottles. There's even an Elvis wig. Perhaps the weirdest item is a book of Elvis carved from a stick of gray cardboard slices. "I call it 'topographical Elvis,'" Theakley says.

Clad in a black T-shirt bearing the name of his own current band, Sgt. Jack, Theakley introduces each item



Tom Theakley

with an anecdote about its provenance. "That 'Elvis Elvis' — a wrapping paper intended for a car dashboard — was purchased in Japan from a street vendor. A friend made the blue velvet dupes with wigs larger than life portraits of the King. He also made the 'bad one' while painting that Theakley pulls from the closet. "I'm trying to bring the space back into fashion," he jokes.

Showing a photo of himself wearing a red jumpsuit — and a black wig of Elvis hair — the bearded Theakley launches into a tale about going to an unimpressive concert in a Virginia and finding himself exposed to sex, well, King-like.



Tom Theakley's basement in Warren is a shrine to the King. He's got a lot of Elvis, who is called up on a small couch. He doesn't even look up when he points to the 1963 cover of *Elvis Presley* featuring Elvis that hangs over the bed. Or to the colorful poster — mounted in blue and gold — of the 1968 movie *Elvis* by the artist John F. Kennedy. The story of Presley's career, the red-headed and curly-haired King of rock, "he was a star."

Which brings up the inevitable question, young, but King or old, did Elvis (elvis) on many appearances (to be precise)?

"Incredibly young Elvis, definitely, but I like the showmanship of the older Elvis," Theakley explains, before asking the question: "Young Elvis, please — show some respect?"

Asked if there are any Elvis items he would still like to collect, Theakley says he's found his last one, a gold belt or one of his last two rings. "I'm looking up a key, gold-plated T-shirt (on the T-shirt) of Presley, which is what Presley called his band," he adds, "Elvis had some real bling. He was the first with bling, the earrings, the gold chains." Take that, hip-hop copycats! ☺

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# Zoning Out

Seminal Burlington band the N-Zones reunite, remembering Hunt's

BY DAN HOLLES

**M**ost people who walk past 131 Main Street in Burlington likely don't give the long-vacant building a second thought. And they're probably unaware of its place in Burlington music history. Just long before there was a Higher Ground, Monkey House or Radio Beas, and well before the now-defunct Club Trust needed above Rousquet's or Pinch put Nectar's on the national map, there was R.W. Hunt Mill & Mining Company.

Hunt's, as it was more familiarly known, was the centerpiece of the Burlington music scene from 1977 through 1987. That Saturday, one local band that epitomized that thriving, Reagan-era music scene will reunite to bring its spirit — though not its site — back to life.

Yorcan Scruton opened Hunt's, which had previously been a mostly folk-oriented venue called the Opey, in 1977. Shortly thereafter, he sold the bar to Fred "Chico" Lager, and Hunt's soon became Burlington's place to see and be seen.

As local venues still do, Hunt's took advantage of the city's geographic location to draw national acts touring between Montreal, Boston and New York.



The club's decade-long resume is impressive: E.B. King, Steve Ray Vaughan, Roy Orbison, Sam & Twanna Van Zandt were among those who graced its stage. But weekends belonged almost exclusively to locals. Bands such as the N-Zones, Pinhead, the Deereats and the Unknown Blues Band would play two- or three-night runs as a regular routine.

Local and bluesy, the N-Zones had their day ruling this musical racist. This Saturday, August 18, at the Higher Ground 3rd floor, surviving members of the band will reunite for the N-Zones & Friends Hunt's Reunion, a celebration that will benefit VSA Vermont. Coincidentally, the show will take place 30 years to the day after Hunt's held a 15th anniversary party featuring the very same band.

Some musicians from the era credit the N-Zones with paving the way for locally made original music, but they

were, if not foremost, a down-and-dirty bar band.

"At that time, being a blues band was something that was still sort of cool, instead of like, 'God damn it, another blues band.' There weren't so many of them yet," says N-Zones bassist Mark Ramsey, who has played in a number of other groups over the years.

"They did a few originals, but the most and passion of the N-Zones was the true rhythm and blues — in the original sense — one" they covered," says Brett Hughes. His own music career began with acoustic contemporaries the Deereats, a poppier, local, all-original new-wave band in the early 1980s. Hughes is now better known for his reaper lyrics with groups such as Rumble Dove and as the leader of the

weekly Husky Tusk Tuesday sessions at Radio Beas. He adds that several other local bands of the '80s, including noted blues-rockers Five Island, used original songs from their sets.

Drummer Bruce McKenna, now 60, was a founding member of the N-Zones and the only constant through the band's many lineup changes. He recalls including original tunes almost out of necessity.

"We didn't really feature ourselves as an original band. But it was a different time," McKenna says. "You'd play for five hours at first. And at nine o'clock, Nectar [Ramsey] would be out tapping his watch so we had to originals in with the covers."

Joe Moore (N-Zones), Joe Moore

hardly played anophone with the N-Zones during their heyday — the late 1970s and early '80s. He agrees that the band's popularity helped warm audiences to the idea of bands playing something other than classic rock and blues or top 40 hits.

Some members of the multiple incarnations of the N-Zones are still active locally, while others went on to national prominence — such as guitarist Drew Seagr, who toured with Steely Dan and Eric Burdon. In particular, the N-Zones went through lineup like

Speed Tap went through drummers. The band's original bassist was Grant Hopkins. Ellen Powell replaced him, and later passed the torch to Jim McGinnis, formerly of Five Island. Dan "Flapjack" Archer and Peter Sikely also played bass for the N-Zones at various points.

"Each of them has played different areas of the band," says Ramsey, who held down the low end in the early 1980s and again in a later version of the group.

Saturday's show will feature members from throughout the band's history, but there will be one notable absence: that of front man Richard "Zoo" Wilson, who took his own life in 1997.

When was the face of the N-Zones and its most recognizable member from the time he took the reins from founding front man Derrick Secker in 1977. Lager



## MUSIC

than life, a Telecaster-slinging original, Wilson could dominate a stage by sheer force of personality.

"He was legendary. One of the coolest guys on the scene," attests Rasmussen. "He was a dynamic personality. And he was hilarious." Rasmussen adds with a chuckle, "Nick loved him."

"Zoot Wilson was a magical man," agrees Haghen. "He had a really compelling charisma, a pretty biting and caustic sense of humor, and he played in this rhythmic, commanding guitar style that nearly every guitar player in town emulated on some level."

**SOME MUSICIANS FROM THE ERA CREDIT THE N-ZONES WITH PAVING THE WAY FOR LOCALLY MADE ORIGINAL MUSIC, BUT THEY WERE, FIRST AND FOREMOST, A DOWN-AND-DIRTY BAR BAND.**

"He probably couldn't play in a corner key if someone paid him," says McKenzie, "but he was a strong guitar player."

Prized guitarist Mark Spencer, a Vermont native, went on to form the Boston-based, neo-country band Blood Cravings with Jimmy Ryan (Devoets), Pete Linsley and currently plays along side Jay Parris in Zoo Nicks. Spencer credits Wilson and the N-Zones as important early influences.

"Zoot was and is my guitar hero," he says. "I can think of three or four of his signature licks that by now I've possibly played more than he did. I consider his R&B/blues/rock style of guitar playing archetypal." Spencer continues, "No matter what kind of music or gig or tour or record I've wanted to do for the past 30 years, in one way or another I think of him almost every time I play guitar."

But his part, Wilson "never had any particular guitar hero," according to McKenzie. "He didn't try to sound like

B.B. King or anyone else. He really did his own thing. It was raw and direct."

"And he's still the only guy I know of that I've seen arrive at a gig in a shopping cart," notes Spencer.

Wilson's warped sense of humor is nearly as legendary as his performances — he was also an accomplished cartoonist. Linsley carried over into his off color songwriting, which Rasmussen describes as "strangely forward, blunt and hilarious." Unfortunately, only a handful of Wilson's songs were ever released. An out-of-print 1999 LP, *Live at Warehouse Hall*, and a cassette tape recorded in the 1980s, *Any Got You*, are the only recorded works the N-Zones produced. In 1999, a limited-edition, two-CD tribute, *Zoot Wilson*, was released; one disc contained Wilson originals, while the other was a reissue of *Warehouse Hall* with five bonus tracks.

Ellen Powell played with Wilson pre-N-Zones, in a Baltimore band called the Fabulous Dogmatics. She says the late singer's sense was his dog, a German shepherd named Bessie. Many of Wilson's originals were canine-themed but laced at more humor, sometimes satirical themes. Powell, now an adjunct faculty member in the music department at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh and a local jazz bummer, cites a few songs that would later appear in the N-Zones repertoire. One was "I Saw Your Wife at the Dog Show" (she didn't even see first place / Perhaps it was her posture or maybe just her face). Another "My Dog Wurst Bork Since You Got to His Place (I wish you hadn't shown him that ribbon of affection last night at your place)."

"He was witty, funny and smart, too," Powell adds. "His thing was carried to Zoot, which was one of the things that drew me to him. We were close, like sister and brother."

From many a memorable show, Hagar's owner Lager remembers Wilson as a natural performer. "Zoot was a showman," he says. "The night would build, and he'd be getting excited and sweeter. Joe Moore would be howler and a bunch of the notes would be a little off key, but it didn't really seem to matter. They would like the music."

And that's exactly what Wilson's friends like to do this weekend, when Higher Ground sponsors Hagar's for just one precious night. ☺

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# Stuck in the Middle With You

Book review: *In One Person* by John Irving

BY JOSH ZAJMAN

**J**ohn Irving's latest novel, *In One Person*, is a densely packed book, the literary equivalent of a multicourse dinner served with a tiny fork. The novel displays plenty of ambition as it alternates between over-the-top and understated sections, but it ultimately goes part substantive into the land of too-filling

**BOOKS**

somehow still short-moving 424 pages leave the reader feeling bored and distracted.

The eponymous Person of the title is William Abbott (Billy), the bisexual protagonist and youngest of the multi-generational Abbotts living in the small town of First State, Va. Located by the Potomac River, First State is ground zero for the multitude of crises that pepper the novel's pages. Think a children's Warburg, Olan.

Over again, seeing the full scope of 19th-century novelists in his novels, Irving painstakingly turns every paragraph of Abbott's life (from birth to senior Irving), the lives of his Abbott forebears and all those of sundry friends, family members and face-skying (with various degrees of success) to arrive the latter half of the 20th century. The novel plays as much emphasis on history that it's pining — or, like the roof — becomes a glaring deficit. The narrative rambles without maturation or even an occasional propulsive burst, eventually disorienting the reader to the *ditto*, suffers Abbott faces in his life.

One could even call the authorial voice monotonous as statements such as "At the time, this was all I knew; it was not a lot to know" are painfully commonplace. There's an unfortunate register for the mostly linear story of Abbott's troubled childhood, his equally troubled sexual awakening and subsequent history.

The novel begins with a distance that will haunt Billy Abbott throughout his

life: "We are forced by what we desire." That ought to give any discerning reader a good idea of the struggle inherent in one person, Billy or anyone else. But when Irving moves from that internal conflict to the external struggle between Billy's bisexuality and small-town prejudice, he wastes the opportunity for a bold treatment of this theme by relying on stereotypes.

The bulk of the novel serves to highlight the inconsistencies and assumptions inherent in the attitudes of First State's inhabitants. That's been done before, plenty of times. Whether it's the young boy with speech impediments growing up to like men, or the cross-dressing grandfather who is viewed as a genetic harbinger of homosexual modernism, each of Irving's characters seems like a stock figure in an old mold of intolerance. Fortunately, he doesn't raise them above the level of cliché.

When Irving leaves this monotonous

being the only constant and the most ambiguous element of all. But that is damaging to the reader's interest level, and, ultimately, to the book's readability. The narrative never takes off. Billy plods along in the dark forest of life until he comes to a fork in the road. Instead of choosing a time, he agonizes, hesitates, considers and eventually agonizes while never moving forward. Virtually every page is an exercise in heartbreak, but the ping-ponging between a man and woman, hate and love, and other emotional dichotomies leaves the reader with a sense of anxious hand-wringing after the first hundred or so pages. We somehow end up with a poorly drawn sketch of a man we know everything about.

Even on the very last page, Billy Abbott remains a shadowy figure as he begins another chapter — if not the reader — to avoid "yearning" before on me — don't make me a curiosity before you get to know me." I never don't know him on the last page of the novel, what hope is there? Given his allusion to *Melrose Place*, Irving, surprisingly, didn't take better notice on Placard's methods of character development.

Unfortunately, the most interesting part of the novel is interesting for the wrong reasons. Toward the end,

Irving attempts to cover every major event in gay history between Kinross and AIDS. By the last page, he has introduced the chronology to the reader and presented a LGBTQQQ transmission and, inevitably as an afterthought, quickly played Billy Abbott back into the plot, making him come full circle in a nod to be the narrative together, leaving stamps at any meaning that can be taken from the history, or the way it can be related to Billy's life. It's another in a series of adlibs or postscript injections of knowledge — whether book titles, gay synopses or chronologies.

Overall, a catalog of quirks, details, fixated incongruities and lawsuits makes for a



## FROM IN ONE PERSON

IT SEEMS THAT I HAVE LONGER ATTRACTED to women. I have also lost to them. But to give in to my inclination to worship at their feet as a kind of going back to being the oppressed gayling victim. Not to mention the fact that at the time, my gay friends and I were all believed that anyone calling their self a bisexual man was really just a gay guy who was fed up to the gills. I suppose — when I was nineteen and twenty and not only sexually turned twenty one — there was apart of me that believed this too.

THE MORE I read about it — actually as I found I was allowed to become sexually active I had been attracted to men. But in my life, to me and only to me, it was nothing back in my attraction to women — as I had never expressed my desires for other gay partners. Even at such a young age I must have sensed that bisexual men were not trusted — perhaps no longer will be but are so firmly viewed as liars.

I was never accused of being attracted to women, but since I had gay friends — and in New York I had an even closer number of gay friends — I quickly learned that being attracted to women made me distrustful and suspected as even feared by other gay guys.

**B**uy *In One Person* by John Irving, 424 pages, \$25.

than literary soap. In *One Person* is more interesting than some of Irving's recent efforts, but it could have been much more. Billy Abbott is no Gary or Owen. Misery.

## Meat Here

Taste Test:  
Bluebird Barbecue

BY ALICE LEVITT

**T**he rustic Elvencroft Avenue restaurant building that opened Blackbird Tavern in 2009 didn't take much revision to become Blackbird Butchery. But now, just past the host stand, a new slogan painted on the rough-hewn wood wall greets visitors with call, bold letters: "Meat Please."

That declaration of allegiance says a lot about the barbers as nondescript eatery that opened on July 13. Though the menu of two barbers' burgers and sandwiches for vegetarians friends, the restaurant's raison d'être is fish and lots of it, prepared brilliantly.

To score local favors, the Hawbitts name may connect eclectic ingredients and fine-dining formality. However, whenowner Sue Bette opened Blackbird Tavern on Riverside as Burlington's first gastropub, she told *Seven Days* her goal was to create a community meeting place. "Neighborhood pubs were once 'part of what our towns were built around,'" she said at the time. "I wanted to bring that back and make [my restaurant] a place you could come every night."

Whitbread Tavern's move downtown to 89 Paul Street brought a more grown-up vibe and higher prices, but its replacement at Rosedale, Whitbread Barbecue, achieves exactly the casual feel it left was shooting for. The front room's pub space has a TV and shuffleboards. Near the bar, the football table is purely idle. And, best of all, the prize-dinner match the laid-back audience



Therapy limited to Weekend Sessions

For budget diners, the "Go Lite" section of the menu, devoted to family-size items for sharing, is a godsend to the Burlington dining landscape. Take the \$16.95 Berry's Steak, named for the 15-ton Steuben Baking smelter that lives in Steuben's parking lot. Despite the name, there's no smoked meat in the huge bowl, only leaves, a sackhouse and tomatoes drowned in creamy white (somewhat bland) dressing and piled with homemade creamed and shredded American cheese. Then there's the fried chicken.

Even without the pile of poultry, Betty's Salad could feed a family of four, but the Herculean portion of chicken is something to behold. The thick breast is brined for optimum moistness, with breadings on either side close to a half-inch thick. Good! It's not The crisp, boozy beer batter awaits breadings and tastes so irresistible, you'll be wondering if you can order it on its own.

The name of another colossal dish, *Barbecue for Two*, is misleading: The choice of three meats and four sides fed me and my boyfriend — both of us dedicated vegetarians — two big dinners.

and a lunch. At \$38.55, that comes to \$2.79 per meal.

The burgers wouldn't matter if the meats and sides weren't equally excellent. Fortunately, they are. Ruby back ribs are prepared with a spice rub and topped with homemade Vermont maple barbecue sauce so dark that the ribs turn almost black as caramelized sugars fuse to meat.

Readers may remember that I'm a stickler about rib protectors. Most should not fall off the bone, but lightly adhere so it can be ripped away cleanly with each bite. At *Whisper Barbecue*, our master Paul Link achieves this precious feat ably. The ribs I tried were moist and tender but fit me enough so that eating them involved little tears or floss beyond sticky fingers. A full-size pork ring surrounding each rib betrayed the kind of smoker on the meat.

All too often in Vermont, pulled pork means a wet pile of braised meaty strands, more rope than sizzling chunks. The Carolina-style pork butt at Hubbard's rubs in as just the opposite. Mounds of the chunky pieces display a dark, smoky bark. All the meat is

ender but not ill-scented, and relatively free of insecticide. It comes dressed in a light shower of mustard-colored silicles—vinegar sauce. The tangy, slightly sweet drizzle is so delicious, it's lucky that all three housemade sauces (fisher chutney, maple and tomato-based "red") also sit in bottles at each table, along with a bowl of hot sugar. I couldn't help but add more sauce to mine.

The combination was even better when piled on one of the two slices of homemade, Wonder-style white bread that came with the meal. I felt transformed to German Cuckoo.

But *breakfast* means a trip to Texas. And the use of Hasbun has more satiety than any other version I've tried. Instead of a spine rub similar to the one on the ribs, the beef is flavoured with a light-tasting, more herbaceous mix that dregs with rosemary. It develops a somewhat unlikely but enchanting partnership with the red, to-mato-based barbecue sauce. In the end, the multi-year-march meat turns out unlike a smelly, more sophisticated version of a few Jewish

# SIDEdishes

BY CORIN HIRSH & ALICE LEVITT

## Too Hot to Handle

COMBUSTION HALL IS ARGUING DESTROYED HOT TAMALES

Things haven't been easy for **HOT TAMALES** lately. On the night of Friday, August 4, **HOT TAMALES**, the Mexican take-out eatery in Johnson that also owns with her mother, founder and executive chef **CHERYL KAMILLIAN**, burned to the ground. The building was also their rental home.

On the night of the fire, Kamillian was in the hospital, but Dixon kept the kitchen open late to cook a number of orders, including a regular customer's birthday dinner for a party of more than 30.

"I was cooking chips," remembers Dixon. "I had a whole bunch of orders — we make everything fresh — I dropped in a batch of chips and I turned away from the stove and thought, *Shit! I have to turn it off really*

quickly. Someone asked me a question, and I got distracted and stepped away from the stove."

The grease fire quickly moved across the deck of the house. Before long, Dixon heard the propane tank cut back flames, she grabbed her dog and pants from upstairs and fled just before the house became engulfed in flames.

"I thought, *Fly shit, that's a fire!*" she says. Indeed, firefighters from eight different departments battled the blaze — which spread to the house next door — for close to seven hours.

"It's just a 100 percent loss," says Dixon. All of Hot Tamales' equipment is gone, including cookware and ingredients purchased from Mexico. The only thing left standing is the company's eye-catching sign. Since the family rented its home and restaurant space, it



Hot Tamales Co.

lacked insurance beyond the liability policy necessary to participate in farmers markets.

But, though Hot Tamales' building is gone, the tamales live on. With help from the staff and donated kitchen space at the **NEW FIDELITY AND PUB**, also in Johnson, Hot Tamales sold its wares last week at farmers markets in Johnson, Jeffersonville and

Essex, despite heavy rain. Until Dixon can find a new space for her own, the Hot will host Hot Tamales nights every Monday — when it would otherwise be closed — serving tamales, burritos and accessories.

Hot Tamales is accepting donations of local produce, meat, dairy and eggs to keep

SEVENDAYS.VT.COM

## Pats' Porter

PATS FANS TO SUPPORT NEWBREW THIS SEASON

Last week was a good one for **MATTHEW WELLS**. He successfully defended his master's thesis (in abstract algebra) at the University of Vermont, and a few days later, he found out that one of his homebrewed beers had been chosen to flow at Massachusetts' Galactic Stadium this winter.

A robust smoked porter brewed by Wells was this year's fifth annual **Barnet Adams Patriot Homebrew Contest**, which means that it will be served to New England Patriots fans all season. "I feel lucky to put this item out," says the unadorned Wells, 33, who lives in Cornwall and is the first Vermonter to win the competition. Wells began homebrewing seriously about three years ago. "A lot of stuff started out on the stove top. Once I got more serious, I went to all kinds of brewing and stuff; I started brewing outside with a propane tank for my heat source," he says.

His first effort was "happy, American style," Wells says, but he later branched out to German styles, so well Pat has won many — and that still at a smoked porter — he used five different kinds of malt, including smoked

wortmalt, and German noble hops "for spiciness." The final product has a "mild-fife sweetness," Wells says, and the smoked espresso notes that some judges detected are a byproduct of the curing malt.

**Barnet Adams** — which is owned by the Boston Beer Company — started the homebrewing contest in 2007 as a way to encourage Pats fans to brew their own beers. Since then, Galactic sponsors have been exposed to a local beer, a mascot, an omelet and an indie polo sale.

When Wells was named a semifinalist earlier this year, he shared his recipe with the Boston Beer Company. Last week, he used the company's replication of his beer at a press conference. "I was somewhat surprised by how close it was to what I did at home," he says. (For the record, Wells is an enthusiastic drinker of **ASA-GRAPE BEERS**, the **Alchemist's HEARTY TOPPER**, and beers from **WILLAMSVILLE BREWERY** and **LAURENS FINEST LAGER**.)

Although Wells has judged a few beer contests, he currently plans a career as a scientist and has no intentions of taking up commercial brewing — "though I might consider it if it was a chance to be even *less*!" he says.

—C.M.



Matthew Wells

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**Nintendo64** Classic Tournament held **every Sunday** at 4pm  
**2nd Bierpax** becomes **2nd Cacerpax** the last **Monday** night of each month

**Das Bierhaus**  
175 Church St. Burlington, VT

facebook.com/DasBierhausVT

## food

### Meat Here

grandmother's binned brisket. On one of my two experiences of the dish, I even found a corn crust on top of the fat cap. I was in heaven.

And there's just the menu. Over two years, I tried all but one of the eight side dishes. Though I was hoping for a bit more acid in the finely chopped coleslaw, the rest were winners. When I first sampled the macaroni and cheese, the yellow American that composed its sauce was smothered the another way, it was not, but the creamy mound of chow noodle was still hard to pass up. Ultra thick, homemade applesauce is a pleasantly sweet addition to the list, and hard cut fries are crisp, oily and showered in an appealing layer of black pepper.

However, the two standout sides are resolutely not for the vegetarians in the party. Colored greens, so often binned into garbage oblivion, retain their integrity at Blackbird. They get much of their flavor from the smoky pork smothered in with the leaves. "Though I'm not a fan of the syrupy, molasses-drenched beans available at most barbecue spots, I can't get enough of the beans scoured per bone at Blackbird.

Barbecue. The thick stew of pork fills somewhere between baked and refried beans. What pushes it toward the latter is the presence of craggy little cubes of house-made ham. I particularly enjoyed the meaty beans as part of the Blackbird Ultimate (\$17.95), a giant sandwich that also contains fried chicken, brisket, pulled pork and coleslaw. It's so thick, a toothpick won't do. Instead, a steak knife holds the whole thing together on its way to the table.

Big, shared dishes aren't the only way to eat at Blackbird Barbecue—which offers all-day, bar and take-out dining options. The "Doin' Meat" section of the menu offers plenty of material for small-plates meals, with the wings (\$9.95) being particularly not-missable. Executive chef Michael Chisler says some recipe combines Frank's hot sauce with a sweet, cooling dose of carrot juice and melted butter. The

result doesn't taste particularly spicy, but it leaves behind a sensuous lip burn. As if that weren't enough, the big, craggy wings and drumsticks are also covered in a scotch of blue cheese and roasted pecans. The side of mild ranch sauce is far from necessary, but it adds a third note of cream to the butter and cheese.

Also on the "Doin' Meat" menu are sausages (\$10.95), which can be hard to come by in Vermont. While I generally travel to Watford to get my fix at the Mad Tern, it's nice to know there's an option in Burlington. At Blackbird, the tender meat is wrapped in house-made instead of caserolls. This method lends an aromatic, nut-like flavor to the meat, creating a highly satisfying pairing with the smoked pork therein. Sides of mild but smoky tomato salsa and spicy mushrooms only make the dish more appealing.

Baby back ribs are prepared with a **SPICE RUB AND MOPPED WITH HOMEMADE VERMONT MAPLE BARBECUE** sauce so thick that the ribs turn almost black as caramelized sugars fuse to meat.

Only one meal did I realize the will to stuff down my already-puffed gut. Sugar pie and banana pudding, so often appealing, but it was going to digress. Well, I was doing it with food. This is not the deep-fried goodness served at county fairs. Instead, the five doughnuts, served in a silver bowl, reminded me of Indian gummy jammies. In the place of sweeter syrup, a shallow pool of maple syrup sweetens the food balls. Each is also coated with cinnamon sugar, which leaves a hint of spice on the palate along with sweetness that walks a very fine line between seduction and excess.

Grilling deters along that line is the major selling point of Blackbird Barbecue. The place exists as a picnic to gluttony. However, I never felt lousy or bogged down after eating there. An orgy of meat with no immediate ill consequences? That's dangerous. Dangerously delicious. D

**B** Blackbird Barbecue, 219 Nevada Avenue, Burlington 488-2070  
blackbirdvt.com

# Premium Hops

Vermont brewers applaud as eBay shuts down black-market beer

BY KAREN HIRSH



Sean Lawson



Shawn Hill

**W**hen Shawn Hill first noticed a bottle of his beer for sale on eBay last fall, it was a jolt. "I was like, what? People are trying to sell our beer for \$100?" recalls the Hill Farmstead brewer. "Then it just started going worse."

In subsequent months, a bottle of Hill Farmstead Minnow, a saison, sold for \$199.99, and bottles of Damon barrel-aged Russian Imperial Stout—named for Hill's childhood Labrador retriever—went for \$254, \$279 and even \$299. The prices were inflated 14 to 25 times beyond those at Hill Farmstead's limited-bottle releases, events where fans trek to the Greensboro brewery and wait in line to score a few bottles. Some

go home empty-handed. Others, Hill says, are "trying as much as they can simply for the sake of selling it all."

Hill makes beer as food that his family has owned for generations, and he names some of the brews after his forebears. That he sees the work as part of his family's legacy, and part of the resurrection of the Northeast Kingdom's agricultural landscape, aside has meant the profiteering that such more sharply. In April, Hill went public with his concerns, venting on Facebook, "We encourage beer enthusiasts to look within their own community—the community of enthusiasts—[and] stare at the folks that are hoarding beer until it is far beyond optimal, until all the people

that are disrespectfully and illegally reselling beer on eBay in order to gain a significant profit."

In response, Hill decided against releasing Epidemic Imperial IPA in bottles, instead offering for draft only. And he tried to contact eBay to let the site know such illegal sales are illegal. (Transporting alcohol over state lines is illegal, and both federal and state laws require permits for alcohol sales.) But he got no response, and Hill Farmstead bottles kept popping up for months.

That is, until late July of this year. After a flurry of commentary in the online beer realm, full bottles of beer on eBay suddenly vanished over the weekend of July 28. Their removal was as mysterious as it was swift, coming without much explanation from the auction giant.

Yet given that the cult status of Vermont microbreweries continues to grow—and Hill Farmstead and other brewers, such as Lawson's Pleasant Liquids continue to rake in accolades—it's worth asking whether eBay's apparent policy reversal will end the illegal exploitation of our local brews. And why doesn't matter, anyway?

Beer fans such as Sean Lawson and Katherine are peppered with posts from people offering up rare bottles for trade. Yet the phenomenon of craft beers commanding high prices at auction is relatively new; it started last fall and increased in step with the public anticipation surrounding releases from Hill Farmstead, Redhook's Carolina and other artisanal breweries.

Like Hill, Sean Lawson of Lawson's Pleasant Liquids first noticed his beers for sale on eBay last fall. Worried that the practice was illegal, he tried to contact sellers with his concerns. "I would send them a message: 'Hey, I'm the brewer. Please don't illegally resell my beer,'" Lawson says. But he didn't hear back from a single one.

Bottles of Lawson's Pleasant Liquids famously sell out quickly, and some ended up on eBay listed at four or more times their sale price. In July, a pair of Lawson's bottles (the Payson Maple Imperial Stout and Secret Palace barley wine, the latter signed by the brewer) sold for \$189 in through a reseller in Rome, Junction One Importer, under the name of the Alchemist's Headly Trapper with Lawson's Double Sunshine IPA for a \$120 sale on July 12.

Lawson says he was "slightly baffled" that people had that much money to spend on a bottle or two of beer. And he was bothered that profiteers circumvent the numerous rules and fees that he must pay on every bottle sold. "As a small-business owner, I pay a lot of money for licensing and taxes," Lawson points out. "There's a layer of taxation at every turn."

Yet what seems an impediment to Hill, Lawson and other brewers whose beers trend up on eBay—the illegality and disrespect inherent in the practice and the potential quality loss involved in road-tripping unsold beer home—appears to be immaterial to buyers who believe that, once they've purchased a beer, they can do whatever they want with it.

One commenter wrote on Redhook, "In the end who are we to tell or dictate to someone else what they can or cannot do with beer. If someone buys it at the brewery or beer store it's their [sic] beer to do with as they see fit. If they want to sell it at an auction..."





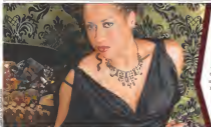


# Unsavory Characters

**W**hen does murder count with a tale of meekness? Only in Sweeney Todd, a Damon Barber of Fleet Street. Stephen Sondheim's Tony Award-winning musical thriller about the grisly partnership between a ruthless barber and a revenge-seeking mad scientist. After a judge wrongly imprisons him to take advantage of his wife, Todd embarks on a blood-spattered revenge spree. For an added layer of razor-sharp realism, *Todd*'s extra Gulek reverts the action to 1795, the year in which London barber surgeons were prohibited from practicing their group's recipe for

## SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

Wednesday, August 22  
8 p.m. at Kaley Memorial  
Building in River View  
tickets for future dates  
through September 8  
\$20 not recommended  
for children. Info: 303-736-0100, stowtheatre.com



## Hey Soul Sister

In a city known for its music scene, Samirah Evans stood out as "one of New Orleans' premier jazz and soul vocalists," wrote the *Times-Picayune*. She rose from her Crescent City haunts — the House of Blues and Sweet Louisiana's among them — to share the stage with the likes of B.B. King and James Brown. Post-Hurricane Katrina, Evans has made a name for herself in the Northeast, too, via gigs in and around her adopted hometown of Northampton. Settle in on the lawn at the River Road Concert Series, where the jazz diva and Her Handsome Devils deliver the standards and swampy, soulful originals.

## SAMIRAH EVANS AND HER HANDSOME DEVILS

Friday, August 16, 8 to 10:30 p.m. at Shawnee Memorial Library in Millington. Free. Bring your own chair or blanket; parking welcome. Info: 432-3532, kingtonet.com

# calendar

WED 12 12:45-1:12

**HIGHWAY HUSBANDS** Gary Tennen Lunday hosts of weekend's Family Car Parade show how easy it is to ditch the suburban style chase in a home kitchen. Submissions: 6-3:30 p.m. \$5. See info: 603-332-0322.

**LARRY PARTY & CHUCKIE HARBINE** Aired from the 6th Street with all the things that could go wrong. 6-8:30 p.m. \$10. See info: 603-332-0322.

**POPULAR FARMERS MARKET** 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. fresh and local produce, flowers, and more. See info: 603-332-0322.

**HERFORD FARMERS MARKET** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. fresh produce, flowers, and more. See info: 603-332-0322.

**WILLYSON FARMERS MARKET** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. fresh and local produce, flowers, and more. See info: 603-332-0322.

## Arts & Culture

**THE KIRK** An anatomy of resistance. Interviews, poetry, film, and more. See info: 603-332-0322.

## Kids

**PROFESSOR CHAMBER PLAINS** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. See info: 603-332-0322.

**ECO FAMILY CONTEST** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. See info: 603-332-0322.

## Music

**PROFESSOR CHAMBER PLAINS** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. See info: 603-332-0322.

**DAVID HELL ORCHESTRA** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. See info: 603-332-0322.

**HENRIETTA CONCERTS IN THE PARK** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. See info: 603-332-0322.

**JOHN BAKER** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. See info: 603-332-0322.

**JOHN BAKER** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. See info: 603-332-0322.

Wednesday 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. See info: 603-332-0322.

**PROFESSOR CHAMBER PLAINS** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. See info: 603-332-0322.

**DAVID HELL ORCHESTRA** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. See info: 603-332-0322.

## Outdoors

**NATURE AT NIGHT** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. See info: 603-332-0322.

**NATURE AT NIGHT** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. See info: 603-332-0322.

**NATURE AT NIGHT** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. See info: 603-332-0322.

## Politics

**ATTORNEY GENERAL, PRIMARY DEBATE** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. See info: 603-332-0322.

See info: 603-332-0322.

## Arts & Culture

**KEY TO THE CITY** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. See info: 603-332-0322.

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WEDNESDAY

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**Music Festival of the Americas at Stowe**  
August 23-25, 2012, 8PM  
Stowe Peak Performing Arts Center, Stowe Mountain Resort

**Joining Music Director Alondra de la Parra and the Festival Orchestra will be world-class guests, including:**

- Plazal Valentin Linares performing Grieg's PIANO CONCERTO. Linares "combines an impetuous sweep with orchestral poise and sensitivity," according to Music Web International.
- One of the true masters of the bandoneon, Juan Pablo Jose performs Luis Bacalov's TRIPLE CONCERTO and MISA WANGO. Bacalov received the Academy Award in 1996 for Best Original Score in the film POSTINO.
- A community chorus of Vermonters and tenor Jose Ortega will join the festival for a night of two contrasting masses: Schubert's MASS IN G and Bacalov's MISA TANSO!

All tickets for this breathtaking concert series are \$20 per seat.

**Tickets and Information: [musicfestivaloftheamericas.org](http://musicfestivaloftheamericas.org) or 802.760.6797**

Special thanks to our Patrons and Gold Patrons

**StoweFlake**  
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**GREEN MOUNTAIN INN**

**MANELICK de la Parra**

**SHALLI FINE**  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

**Stowe**  
Vermont

**REPORTER**

**TRIPS Family Lodge**  
Official Hotel of the Vermont Music Festival

**WOMAN'S INN**  
COMMODOROS INN













**Hawthorne Theatre** Bullington 7:30 p.m. \$20-\$30 info: 910-215-0100

**LAKE CHARLES COUNTRY CLUB** **MAJOR FISHING FESTIVAL** **BATCH ON BRIM** Several major fisherman perform special tribute to J. Major and Harvey Combs at 4 a.m. lunchtime concert, open house of Vermont fishing festival. 1024 Center Bullington 12-10 p.m. Free info: 418-234-0000

**MILTON COMMUNITY BAND** A local ensemble plays moving band standards at an evening of musical concert. Milton Recreation Park Milton, 7 p.m. Free info: 910-215-4522

**OPEN MIC** Local artists sing at the end house with short acts of music and comedy. Hot dogs and beverages for sale. 1000-1000. Leggett Farm Johnson City 8 p.m. Free info: 910-215-4522

**SHAKE NOTE SING** 50 years of early American fiddling tunes. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 1000-1000. Leggett Farm Johnson City 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free info: 910-215-4522

**VILLAGE COUNTRY** See 1012 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 1000-1000. Leggett Farm Johnson City 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free info: 910-215-4522

## outdoors

**WILKESVILLE MEDICAL PLANT TOUR** Plant experts in the morning show and night of sustainable water harvesting and soil of different plant rate to the plants. 1000-1000. Leggett Farm Johnson City 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free info: 910-215-4522

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## community

**FOODS ON A BAY-MILKMAID** Anybody can get a comprehensive overview of the Western Food Festival. 1000-1000. Leggett Farm Johnson City 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free info: 910-215-4522

## sports

**CYCLING** 1000-1000. Leggett Farm Johnson City 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free info: 910-215-4522

## words

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## WED.22

## community

**OPEN HOUSE MEETING** See WED 12 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## conferences

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## events

**MAJOR FISHING FESTIVAL** See WED 12 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## dance

**SUMMER ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE** See WED 12 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## performances

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**Vermont State Theatre** Bullington 8-10 p.m. Free info: 910-215-4522

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**Greenhouse Arts Alliance & Residency**  
**A Gourmet Shakespearean Feast**  
at  
**Mountain View Country Club**  
**Courtesy Club Road**  
**Greensboro, Vermont**  
+ Gourmet Dinner plus wine and food  
**ONE NIGHT ONLY, AUG. 17**  
**6 PM Cocktails • 7:30 PM Dinner**  
8 PM Show  
Stop gourmet production  
Chadwick House direct  
"Shakespeare in Love"  
delicious from Shakespeare's greatest  
love scene and more!  
Alexander Berman, Viceroy  
will play music of the period

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# Manifestivus Destiny

David Pranksy's music-festival feats of strength

BY JOHN FLANAGAN

**A** music-and-arts event called Manifestivus, formerly Festivus for the Unlucky, has entered its 30th year of music-lovers' mayhem. Scores of handily furnished in Cabot, Vt., for much of the past 30 years.

"My mom has been kind enough to let me have a couple thousand people here once in a while," says David Pranksy, 36, the Toubish Grove house and Cabot native who is principally responsible for organizing the shindig.

Pranksy's festival developed out of parties he and his sister, Jamie, would throw on their family land. Originally a one-night event that drew a few hundred people, Manifestivus has since swelled to a 2000-acre, \$40,000-a-ticket.

The festival's original name harkens from "Seinfeld," though it wasn't until several years after launching the season 6 or that an inquisitive interviewer linked Pranksy to the connection. A friend in Burlington had suggested the moniker, assuming Pranksy would catch the reference to the new cult status episode of the TV sitcom, in which George Costanza's strange, family tradition is revealed. Years later, after watching the episode — and finding it "frankly hilarious" — Pranksy decided to "become the name." Jamie created the new Manifestivus.

"There's a lot of manifestation that happens here," Pranksy explains. "People have dreams, and people want to make art happen. We try to do our best to manifest that."

Pranksy cites the Vermont Reggae Festival and Ben & Jerry's One World One

Heart Festival as inspirations. He says he "almost felt a little obligated to the community" to sustain these traditions in a similar vein.

Music wasn't always Pranksy's greatest interest, though. He taught himself to play the mandolin after retiring his former instrument, basketball.

"I was a class musician," he says.

After meeting Dutch drummer Brad Corrigan at Cetus Arts, Pranksy was invited to play with the covered indie band for three months, which eventually evolved him into a life that included performing for genetic crows and signing autographs.

After their loss, Corrigan helped Pranksy on a duo with a new band, Vol Harvest, which brought him further notoriety.

"We was like, 'All right, here's all my dues. Good luck,'" Pranksy remembers, though he admits that being a long singer unnerved him. After a few years with Vol Harvest, Pranksy was ready to trade his mandolin for a bass and join the North Castles-based Toubish Grove, where he had met through Jamie. Though Toubish anchor Manifestivus with their kick-off concert, multi-instrumental groove acts such as Cinnamon, Kent Jensen and Midstate have all graced the festival stages. This year, among them, a dozen acts — from as far as Africa and as near as Burlington — will perform.

In 2009, a writer for *National Geographic* observed "While Frank Corrigan won't be there to oversee the Aztec of Greenstone or the Feast of Strength, this homegrown Vermont festival still manages to preach about an weight by attracting top international talent."

Pranksy says he likes the mix of an known local and global act's ability to draw "A lot of Africans in New York will come up to us performers that have never been to the States," he says. "Mostly from the Northeast Kingdom people, the kids and the people that party in the wee hours."

Local artist and RCA screen-printing teacher George Gonzalez sold his pottery and hand-screened T-shirts at last year's festival. Due to the good sales and good times, Gonzalez says he plans to return for this year's do. He cites the festival's dance scene as a real asset.

"It's a small festival compared to other festivals that I go to," he says, adding that Vermont's close to and friendly residents make for ideal circumstances.

Pranksy similarly recognizes the state's allure as a significant factor in Manifestivus' success.

"I don't know how we'd do in the middle of Hartford, Connecticut," he says.

"There's definitely something different about Vermont. We all know that. I don't know if we know exactly what that is, but it's something different."

Pranksy says his sister's return has always been family-oriented and as much for kids as it is for adults, though he admits to growing pains the year "house, many folks" showed up with "a vibe that we might not necessarily want here."

Over the last three years, Pranksy and his fellow organizers have established a family-friendly field. This year's Manifestivus will offer kids' workshops, including instrument building and painting, and a fully supervised area where parents can

leave their whippersnappers while enjoying more adult aspects of the festival. Pranksy promises a full stable of live shows, too — though whether those are recorded strictly for the youth is unclear.

Other improvements this year include more competition in wooded areas, a new water system for one of the swimming holes, a late-night DJ set — usually an all-night party — in the middle of the woods, and renowned actor Lou Gossett, who will headline MC duties for the first.

"Lou is actually a friend of the family," Pranksy says of the Vermont-based actor, best known for his roles in Steven Seagal's *Death Wish* and Paul Thomas Anderson's *There Will Be Blood*. Gossett's children were students of Camp Longleaf Turtle, the summer camp that Pranksy's mother, Judy, runs on the festival grounds. In the past, Pranksy took the MC duties himself, but he says he was always too busy to do the job justice.

"Lou's a great guy, a real down-to-earth," he says.

As he prepares the festival grounds, Pranksy says he's never been more excited than he is for this year's Manifestivus.

"It's been a lot of work," he concedes. "But when I'm here and I'm watching everybody having a good time, I feel like I'm contributing to the history of Vermont and music festivals." □

**i** n 10th Annual Manifestivus, in Cabot, Vermont, on Friday August 10th from 10am-5pm, go to [www.manifestivus.com](http://www.manifestivus.com)



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**AUGUST 18-26**

## Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival

**Aug. 19 | SUN 3:00 PM**

Clayton Music Center at Saint Michael's College

**Aug. 20 | MON 7:00 PM**

Academical Hall, Burlington

**Aug. 21 | TUES 7:30 PM**

Academical Hall, Burlington

**Aug. 24 | FRI 7:30 PM**

Clayton Music Center at Saint Michael's College

**Aug. 26 | SUN 3:00 PM**

Clayton Music Center at Saint Michael's College

There are events to attend every day of the festival. Details on our website.

info: [www.lcmf.org](http://www.lcmf.org)  
or 802.361.0700  
info: 802.668-2175  
or [www.lcmf.org](http://www.lcmf.org)



## music

### CLUB DATES

NO. NOT AVAILABLE • AL. ALIVE



WED. 22 / JAMAR TOSTI (FRODO)

## The Son Also Rises

As the saying went of jazz, the coconut doesn't fall far from the palm tree. That's certainly true in the case of up-and-coming Jamaica reggae star **JAMAR TOSTI**, whose father is Freddie "Toots" Hibbert of reggae godfathers Toots and the Maytals. Maybe you're heard of them? Toots the younger trades in an uplifting brand of socially conscious island sounds with nods to modern reggae deejays, while always keeping the genre's roots — and dear ol' dad — close at hand: *Jamar Tosti* plays Heron's this Wednesday, August 22, with support from the local **BLUETILE**.

## WED. 15

### Burlington area

**ED LOUNGE** Soul Wagon (Jung) 7 p.m.

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**ED LOUNGE** Soul Wagon (Jung) 7 p.m.

**SEVENTH FLOOR** 1000 Sawyer and

Joshua Pines (Jung) 7 p.m.

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**SEVENTH FLOOR** 1000 Sawyer and

Joshua Pines (Jung) 7 p.m.

## THU. 16

### Burlington area

**MINISTAR CAFE** Live Music 8

p.m. Free

**CLUB METROPHANE** 1000 Sawyer and

Joshua Pines (Jung) 7 p.m.

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Joshua Pines (Jung) 7 p.m.

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**CLUB METROPHANE** 1000 Sawyer and

Joshua Pines (Jung) 7 p.m.

## FRI. 17

### Burlington area

**MINISTAR CAFE** Live Music 8

p.m. Free

**CLUB METROPHANE** 1000 Sawyer and

Joshua Pines (Jung) 7 p.m.

**CLUB METROPHANE** 1000 Sawyer and

Joshua Pines (Jung) 7 p.m.

**CLUB METROPHANE** 1000 Sawyer and

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# **SO**undbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

Manfestivus in Cabot (see **JOB** PLANNING page on page 34) that there are a number of other, under-the-radar fests about, should you be seeking an alternative. For instance, the second annual Freshies Against Music Festival, which runs thru Friday, August 17, through Sunday, August 19, at various locations around the lovely little town of Pougham. As its name implies, FAFest boasts a mix of folk, old-time and bluegrass, including performances from veteran local folkies **PETE SUTHERLAND**, pianist **ANDREW SPOLITZ**, with master accordionist **JEROME MCILANE**, steel and bluegrass **OLIVER** and acoustic bluesman **OTIS JAMES**. And that's just Friday. The remainder of the weekend features similarly excellent performances, contra dances and work shops, including an all-star jam on Saturday evening. Visit [danet.org](http://www.danet.org) for more details.

Meanwhile, at the Magic Mountain, or, Mountain Deli Area in Londonderry, the fella are also with the sound of jam bands at the Green Mountain Grooves. This two-day fiddle fest (Friday, August 17, and Saturday, August 18) features local and regional acts from across the overly hyped-up pre-arranged mainstream — jazz-rock, reggae-rock, reggae-funk, jazz-reggae-rock-funk, etc. — including **FLAMINGOHEAD**, **WINDY FILL**, **CASH & DUFFY**, **BOOTS OF TRADITION** and **ELL** (singer/songwriter).

**THIN LINDS**, among many others. Also, there will be disc golf. You can check the full lineup at [musicalproductions.com](http://musicalproductions.com).

In a related story, as I allowed near Plainville just I'm guessing no, which means I'll likely miss this year's Backwoods Pondfest at Twin Ponds Campgrounds in Peru, NY. The two-day bootstrappy fest Friday, August 17, and Saturday, August 18, and, like the Green Mountain Grooves, features a slew of regional and local acts mostly on the improvised rock, roots and reggae vein. This year's headliners are **SEVEN SPARKS** and **THE DIRT EYES** (Friday) and **MAX CREEK** (Saturday). There are some notable locals on the undercard both days, including **ORIGINAL IRA**, the **BLIND JOE**, **NANO** and **TRIVOL**.

There's gonna be a whole lotta looper' goin' on at the Monkey House that Saturday, August 18, when **FISH** off hosts **MOUTHBREATH** and **DELEPHANT** **HERBIE** join **MELODY** and **HIGH VOLTAGE**. Interesting note about the last act: Word in NY — aka **REBECCA KOPPELSON** — is teaming up with local MC and producer **RAE ONE** on an EP called **Blitz From the Secret Kitchen**. The idea is to blend Koppelson's looping and vocal talents with the MC's noted hip-hop flow and producing skills to produce, and I quote, "a bubbling recipe for years." As opposed to an refreshing

argument. And, point of order, I believe the technical term is actually sausage. Either way, stay tuned.

In other local common and groups, **WILLIAMS** are reportedly back in the studio and working with — who else? — **KEN PERLIN** on a new record they hope to release... sometime. I'm told they may even start playing out again. In the meantime, you can catch groupies-tastic Volcanic offshoot **EMERALD LINES** at the Monkey House this Friday, August 17, alongside **VERNA** and **STONE HALL**.

Last but not least, last week I reviewed the latest album from **AMER RICHARDS GUMBITAR**, *I Am the Beat*. But it turns out, I shouldn't have. It was brought to my attention after the review that my younger brother, **TYLER RICHARDS**, actually appears on the album. Somehow, I completely missed his name in the liner notes. He added backing vocals — really more of a shout than a chorus of other shouts — on one track. Not exactly a critical role, or a performance that would have colored my impression of the record either way had I realized it, but well. Remember anything a family member or close friend is involved with represents a conflict of interest for a critic, so I must have seen it the role. I should have paid better attention to the lineup of guest performers and passed the album off to another reviewer. My apologies. ☺

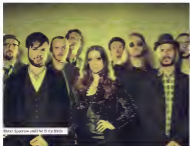


Photo: Courtesy of the band.



## Listening In

Once again this week's totally self-indulgent column segment, in which I share a random sampling of what wasaving iPod contents. CD player eight track player etc. this week.

David San Deon, America

Second "Prince" Billy Rose Here's My Love (N.Y.) and the Dave (N.Y.)

Tom Waits, World's Most Fun

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<b>PITCH BLACK BRASS BAND</b> with <b>THE BLUES BOYS</b> and <b>THE BLUES BOYS</b>	<b>WED</b> AUG 16
<b>TALLGRASS GETDOWN</b>	<b>THU</b> AUG 16
<b>SPIT JACK</b> with <b>THE BLUES BOYS</b> and <b>THE BLUES BOYS</b>	<b>FRI</b> AUG 17
<b>THE GREG IZOR BLUES BAND &amp; THE BOB MACKENZIE BLUES BAND</b>	<b>SAT</b> AUG 18
<b>"NO DIGGITY" 90'S NIGHT</b> with <b>THE BLUES BOYS</b> and <b>THE BLUES BOYS</b>	<b>SUN</b> AUG 19
<b>DOCTOR RUCKUS</b> with <b>THE BLUES BOYS</b> and <b>THE BLUES BOYS</b>	<b>MON</b> AUG 20
<b>RETRONOME</b> with <b>THE BLUES BOYS</b> and <b>THE BLUES BOYS</b>	<b>TUE</b> AUG 21
<b>M1 YARD REGGAE NIGHT</b>	<b>WED</b> AUG 22
<b>METAL MONDAYS</b>	<b>THU</b> AUG 23
<b>MOTOWN MONDAY</b>	<b>FRI</b> AUG 24
<b>BEN DONOVAN &amp; THE CONGREGATION</b>	<b>SAT</b> AUG 25
<b>THE MALAH</b>	<b>SUN</b> AUG 26

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KAYNE & KAYNE

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FROM THE HILLSIDE OF  
THE CLIMATE FRONT

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## music

### CLUB DATES

NO. NOT AVAILABLE • ALL AGES, UNLESS

#### FRIDAY

LIFT Ladies night 8 p.m. Free/12

**BARNEY'S BARBERSHOP** (open)  
McClurg House New York City jazz  
8:30 p.m. Free

**HONEYMOON** (same label,  
Burlington Gaze Music) jazz 8 p.m.

**HEARTS** 8:30 p.m. (same label,  
Burlington Gaze Music) jazz 8 p.m.

**ON THE RISE** (same label,  
Burlington Gaze Music) jazz 8 p.m.

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## Wandering Minstrel

If there's anyone whose heart is this autumn  
EMERICK sure knows how to spread the love.  
The well-traveled singer-songwriter and  
self-proclaimed gay-friendly indie author  
in attendance from coast to coast before  
recently writing in Boston — at least for  
now. Her 2011 debut EP, *Storytelling*, is a  
worldly reflection on wanderlust and yearning  
for a place to be their down seasonable  
companions to Ingrid Michelson and Emerald  
Cedric, among others. This Saturday, August  
18, Emerick makes herself at home at the  
Sticky Fingers in Burlington.

SAT 10 / 11 PM EMERICK, JONAS DANIELSON

# REVIEW *this*

## Eight 02, *Eight 02*

(HARVEY AND TAYLOR TO  
DIGITAL DOWNLOAD)

Local quartet *Eight 02* isn't the two of the area's better-known jazz combos, featuring keyboardist Peter Eganach and guitarist Jerome Monachino of Picture *This*, and drummer Laron Allen and alto saxophonist Christopher Peterson of Appalachian. Their self-titled debut CD dives into what the band members describe as "post-hop contemporary jazz fusion." While generally trading more between the latest, smoother end of that descriptor, the live-track EP showcases an extremely talented group with enough improvisational fortitude to justify their declared post-hop lineage.

"As the spirit" leads off the record with a heady groove courtesy of Allen and guest percussionist Leroy Carter. As the band loses it in an undulating groove, Peterson and Monachino command the track's slightly melodic riffs there. The guitar-soo pairing is clean and balanced, almost to a fault. At times throughout the record,



the general feel and atmosphere is Weather Channel smooth. Thankfully, Monachino adds in a rapidly changing storm front in the form of panning lighting strikes on guitar. His lines are fluid, fast and technically immaculate. Eganach follows with some impetuous, and progressive, keyboard work before the tune resolves around the final melody.

"Roses" follows and continues the smooth, generally effusive, carefree trend before working in a highly discerning 6/8 swing which allows Peterson and Monachino space to smile. Both players take a solo approach, leaving the listener with pretty, spare lines before stretching out. Eganach lays down a sparkling solo

section before Peterson returns with a fluttering counter and takes the lead to the stars.

Of the EP's five tracks, "All This Talk" is perhaps the most egregious example of smooth-jazz wanking. Once a funk-like groove, the band indulges all manner of contemporary jazz clichés, from Chace-Wile synth to self-gratifying solos. Though a showcase of each player's technical prowess, this does little to serve — or rescue — the larger piece. There's no edge or daring here, which was sort of the point of the post-hop era.

In contrast, the following cut, "In the Mind of a Wounded Area," offers a far richer arrangement — despite the tepidly overdriven guitar and synth sharing much in common with jazz-oriented rock than jazz — contemporary, post-hop or otherwise — the track is a surprisingly psychedelic trip that finds the band working in perfect concert.

*Eight 02* plays Radio One on  
Tuesday, August 21

DAN HOLLES

## Mark Struhsacker, *Cold Outside*

(SELF RELEASED CD)

Over the past 35 years, Morrisville-based guitarist Mark Struhsacker has carved out a modest career as a busy sideman. The founder of the WDEV Radio Jammerz — which he started some 26 years ago in an attempt to re-create the live country-music radio-show feel from the 1960s and '70s — is a Vermont fixture who has played on innumerable local folk, country and bluegrass recordings. Oddly though, he never produced an album of his own work. Until now. On *Cold Outside*, Struhsacker finally seizes the spotlight for himself and delivers a collection of originals and old favorites that leaves the listener wondering what the hell took so long.

Struhsacker plays and sings with an ease and familiarity that suggests he has three-plus decades backing up the state's finest Americana artists like his best and truest friends behind every countless hours of rehearsing



and jugging it by horns, grunge beats and juke joints throughout the Green Mountains. As such, Struhsacker's original tunes fit seamlessly with covers such as Rod Bailey and Don Reno's "Little Mountain Road," Mark O'Connor's "Cat in the Hat" and Cindy Williams' "Lemon," the last of which features a lovely guest turn by the always excellent Beth Casey on harmony vocals.

Casey is not the only guest returning the favor and backing up Struhsacker for a change. Banjo Dan and the Mid-

west Bluebirds' Will Lindner turn up on mandolin on a few tracks, as does multi-instrumentalist Rob Aron, who plays a mean bag on the Struhsacker original "Sud & Blue." And fiddler Tony Wadsworth is a highlight on album closer "Cat in the Hat."

On "Horn Action" Speak Leader "This Wonder" the singer's often lead vocal duties in Lesley Green, whom he regularly backs as a member of Green's country band, Bluegrass. It's the only track on which he plays a leading role — and does so exceedingly well, of course.

Best of the remainder of the disc is Struhsacker's slow "From start to finish," he shares with the same sort of quietly level, understated performance for which generations of local players have sought his services.

*Cold Outside* by Mark Struhsacker is available at Haystack Card & Gift and Green Tap Market in Montpelier, Lesley's Variety Store in Stowe and Gallery Bookshop in Hardwick.

DAN HOLLES

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— MARDE MULLIGAN  
South Burlington

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# Drawing the Other Side

D'Ann Calhoun Fago, Studio Place Arts

**D**owntown Barre looks like a miniature Grand Canyon this summer. Instead of a main drag, a 20-foot-deep ditch cuts through the city while crews install new sewers and make other improvements. But navigating the big dig is worth it, if your final destination is D'Ann Calhoun Fago's retrospective at Studio Place Arts.

Considered one of the founders of Vermont's arts-and-crafts movement, Fago has devoted her life to art. Even now, at 94 and a half, the Bethel artist draws every day.

Her artwork, created over 75 years, is on display at SFA through September 8. From Fago's early paintings of rural Kentucky natives

**IN HER LATEST DRAWINGS, FAGO HAS TURNED HER FOCUS TO THE LANDSCAPE. SHE CAN EASILY OBSERVE FROM HER BETHEL PORCH.**

to recent drawings of her own backport, the works offer a glimpse into Fago's compelling life story and vibrant spirit.

Fago spent her youth in Lexington, Ky.—with the exception of one year, which she spent on the road with her family while her father, whom she describes as an “inherent gambler,” looked for work around the country.

Even as a child, Fago was a deft artist. “I used to get punished for drawing on the walls,” she says. A player at the SFA exhibit reads, “A sensitive and often lonely child, she identified old with society's marginalized people.”

Fago describes Lexington as “a small town with big ideas about itself.” She wasn't interested in its pretensions, wealthy residents, she was drawn to the bums who hung out in the public square. So she began hanging out there, too, drawing and painting them.

“I was interested in the other side,” says Fago. In one 1936 piece at SFA, she depicts three men in a Kentucky brooder, gambling, beer and guffing aggressively. When asked how she ended up in such an establishment, Fago answers frankly, “I went in for a drink.”

Fago studied art at the University of Kentucky and, shortly after graduation, took a teaching job at a Presbyterian junior college in a rural mining town that had Kentucky's highest homicide rate. The school was academically rigorous and strict, says Fago, who recalls hiding in her closet to smoke cigarettes, which were forbidden on campus.

“I was interested in the job because I love country people,” says Fago. But the experience was scary, too. She was practically the same age as her students, and she remembers her first emergency call in the dorms. A girl had tried to perform an abortion on herself.

Fago's work from this time is primarily portraiture. In a 1936 drawing called “Scrub-

born Old Woman,” an African American woman wearing a cap gazes out at the viewer with a searing expression of dis pleasure. In the oil on board “Workmen on a Truck,” from the following year, Fago renders two men looking keen in gorgeous earthy browns and dusty greens and blues, their thick legs dangling from the back of a vehicle.

In her 1934 painting “Man on Bench,” Howard, Kentucky, a middle-aged white man sits with his arms crossed and his sleeves rolled up, looking intently at the viewer, as if he's ready to hear a story or tell his own.

In the 1940s, Fago moved to New York City, where she earned her MFA from Columbia University and married Vincent Fago, editor at the time of *Melvin Conner*. She found new inspiration in her husband's heritage. “His people were immigrants from Italy,” Fago says. “I was fascinated by them.”

So she began painting her neighbors, New York's Italian immigrants. In “Frog From Wain With Moon Through Window,” a 1943 watercolor, a round woman of indeterminate age is cloaked in a yellow dressing gown, her head tilt-



When in French: Howard, Kentucky

## REVIEW

ed up toward a gleaming yellow moon.

The Fagos lived in Greenwich Village and spent their evenings in the uptown jazz clubs, where they mingled with some of the era's biggest stars. “Do you know Billie Holiday?” she asks a recent visitor to her Bethel home. “We used to have her over for dinner. She was magnificent.”

When Fago interviewed for the position that would bring her family to Vermont—director of the Arts & Crafts Service, a division of Vermont's agriculture department—she was in her 60s and found she was too old for the job.

But Fago was hired in 1948, and, while finding was slowly cut in 1977, she worked to build a network of Vermont artists and artists from the ground up. She traveled around the state, connecting artists to resources and materials, and laid the groundwork for institutions

such as Frog Hollow. When the service was eliminated, Fago and her husband retired, and she poured her energy into her own artwork.

In her latest drawings, Fago has turned her focus to the landscape she can easily observe from her Bethel porch. Her most recent drawing at SFA was completed just months ago. “Garden View” is a simple sketch of a well-manicured patch of land rendered in graphite—overgrown grasses tangled over the contours of the Bethel earth. These days, Fago does a lot of what she calls quick drawings. “I try to discipline myself to draw every day,” she says. “It's a habit. I don't want to be lazy.” □

MEGAN JAMES

**f** Other Calhoun Fago exhibitions include *Studio Place Arts: Barre* through September 8. Info: 802/745-1343, [studiosplacearts.com](http://studiosplacearts.com)







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on the Green in Middlebury

**Saturday August 25**  
at the Howe Center in Rutland

Check-in at 8:00 a.m.  
Walk at 10:00 a.m.

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art

## Aaron Stein

Make no  
mistake: Aaron Stein  
loves automobiles.  
Sure, these "rolling  
sculptures," as he calls  
them, are destroying  
the environment.

But Stein associates  
them with nostalgia,  
childhood memories  
and romance. And  
he is fascinated with  
the outdated roles  
automobiles play in our  
cultural imagination.  
"How can something  
so influential in the  
design of the landscape  
and destructive to the environment have become our way of life?" he asks in an  
artist statement. His response is to make art. Stein uses old license plates and other  
reclaimed car parts to build sculptures, furniture and assemblages, all of which make  
up a show called "Car Dreams" in Burlington's Frog Hollow through August 31.

Featured are of Stein's map assemblages.



2014 BURLINGTON AREA SHOWING # 174

## chase/robin valley

10 PM to 11 PM: Works by Vermont artists who have  
been with the gallery since Chase/Robin's decade ago.  
Through August 30 in Art in Motion in Bristol. Info:  
433-4333

**JOHN AND HEIDI'S** "A Move from the  
Backyard" photographs and assemblages from  
the venerable Chase/Robin assemblage. Through  
September 15 in Vermont Mobile Center in  
Middlebury. Info: 388-4004

**DIANE'S SCULPTURE** Workshop Amy Rowley  
Brace Johnson, Peter Korman and Matthew Ryan  
Through August 10 in The Carving Studio in West  
Burlington. Info: 438-8003

**ON THE MOUNTAIN** Photography by Jackie  
James, Sandy May, John May, Nancy May and  
Robert May. **JOHN MAY** Paintings and  
other dimensional mixed media pieces in support  
of Vermont State Farm, June 18 to Aug. long wood  
house, 10000 Main St., Montpelier, VT. Info: 438-8003

**ALBERT GALT** Large scale digitally-manipulated  
photographs of the forest. **LORETTA  
GALT** Watercolor and pencil. Through  
September 15 in Baby Public Library in Middlebury.  
Info: 388-4003

**ALBERT GALT & CRYSTAL MATHIAS** Private  
show of original paintings and family photo  
in the painted canvas and print. Through  
September 15 in Baby Public Library in Middlebury. Info:  
388-4003

**TRACIE HILL TO THE FAIR AN ABIGAIL GUNBY  
TRACIE HILL** Photographs of the 19th century  
in the 19th century. Info: 388-4003

**THE REMAINS OF BEYOND** A building for each  
of the 15 years the museum has been open.  
Through October 31 in the Vermont Museum in  
Montpelier. Info: 438-2000

**JOHN KORMAN & CRYSTAL MATHIAS** "Hill of  
Hill" works by Vermont artists. Through  
August 31 in the Vermont Museum in Montpelier.  
Info: 438-2000

**VERMONT VERMONT SOCIETY GALLERY**  
**EXHIBITION** Works by Vermont artists. Through  
August 31 in the Vermont Society Gallery in  
Burlington. Info: 438-2000

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## NEW IN THEATERS

**ALWAYS NEVER SORRY** Director Brian Koppelman's hit 'Chester' actor, who helped design the stadium-fueled drug-fueled thriller, is now among the top 100 in the world. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

**THE RESPONSIBLE** The story of a man who made a name for himself as a producer and then as a man who made a name for himself as a producer and then as a man who made a name for himself as a producer. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

**THE OLD LADY OF THE HOUSE** Jennifer Lawrence and Jeff Bridges star in a comedy about a woman who is the only one left in the house. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

**PARANORMAL** Adam Scott and Jennifer Lawrence star in a comedy about a woman who is the only one left in the house. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

**RUBY SPARKS** A comedy about a woman who is the only one left in the house. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

**DRINKS** A comedy about a woman who is the only one left in the house. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

## NOW PLAYING

**THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** A comedy about a woman who is the only one left in the house. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

## ratings

★ = excellent  
★★ = good  
★★★ = very good  
★★★★ = excellent  
★★★★★ = perfect

ALWAYS NEVER SORRY: 4.5/5  
THE RESPONSIBLE: 4.0/5  
THE OLD LADY OF THE HOUSE: 4.0/5  
PARANORMAL: 4.0/5  
RUBY SPARKS: 4.0/5  
DRINKS: 4.0/5

## MOVIE CLIPS

—Peter Parker's Mary Jane time — as well as the other two movies shown and reviewed. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

**HEARTS OF THE SOUTH** A comedy about a woman who is the only one left in the house. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

**THE BEST OF THE BEST** A comedy about a woman who is the only one left in the house. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

**THE BOUND** A comedy about a woman who is the only one left in the house. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

**BRIDES** A comedy about a woman who is the only one left in the house. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

**THE KIDNAPERS** A comedy about a woman who is the only one left in the house. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

**THE DARK KNIGHT** A comedy about a woman who is the only one left in the house. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

**NEVER HIDE** A comedy about a woman who is the only one left in the house. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

**MASTERS OF THE MIST** A comedy about a woman who is the only one left in the house. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

**HOPE SPRINGFIELD** A comedy about a woman who is the only one left in the house. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

**THE KIDNAPERS** A comedy about a woman who is the only one left in the house. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

**THE KIDNAPERS** A comedy about a woman who is the only one left in the house. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13) (R)

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## MOVIES YOU'VE NOT SEEN

eye candy parade a comedy starring top red hot stars  
Dane Cook, Valeriya Karamova and a male stripper  
Also featuring a lot of Matt Damon's Keanu Reeves  
and a little bit of James Van Der Beek's (who's  
directed) (100 min, R, Palace ends 8/30)

**HOLDING THE LINE** \*\*\* 1/2 This director  
Neil LaBute isn't known for his whimsical period  
drama, but in this 1995 film, he's got a lot of fun  
in a female film. (100 min, R, Palace ends 8/30)

**MIND GAMES** \*\*\* 1/2 The kind of  
sophisticated, intelligent thriller that's been  
unavailable on DVD for a decade (100 min, R, Palace ends 8/30)

**THE GUN OF NEALANDER** \*\*\* 1/2 A comedy  
about a man who's a detective in a small town  
in a small town. (100 min, R, Palace ends 8/30)

**SAFETY NOT GUARANTEED** \*\*\* 1/2 A comedy  
about a man who's a detective in a small town  
in a small town. (100 min, R, Palace ends 8/30)

**STEP UP REVOLUTION** \*\*\* 1/2 An action  
comedy about a man who's a detective in a small town  
in a small town. (100 min, R, Palace ends 8/30)

**THE GUN OF NEALANDER** \*\*\* 1/2 A comedy  
about a man who's a detective in a small town  
in a small town. (100 min, R, Palace ends 8/30)

**THE GUN OF NEALANDER** \*\*\* 1/2 A comedy  
about a man who's a detective in a small town  
in a small town. (100 min, R, Palace ends 8/30)

long through his interlocking stories of racism,  
American soldiers in the '60s and '70s, and  
the lives of the people who lived through it. (100 min, R, Palace ends 8/30)

**THE GUN OF NEALANDER** \*\*\* 1/2 A comedy  
about a man who's a detective in a small town  
in a small town. (100 min, R, Palace ends 8/30)

**THE GUN OF NEALANDER** \*\*\* 1/2 A comedy  
about a man who's a detective in a small town  
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## NEW ON VIDEO

**THE GUN OF NEALANDER** \*\*\* 1/2 A comedy  
about a man who's a detective in a small town  
in a small town. (100 min, R, Palace ends 8/30)

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## Movies You Missed 51: The Turin Horse

This week on **Movies You Missed**: The most beautiful film I have ever seen is a horse of the most forgettable.

Hungarian director László Nemes is beloved by cinephiles for his long, long films  
showing long, long takes. Just before the end of the film, the Turin Horse  
one of the best films of 2011 is in.

In 1919, a Hungarian man named László Nemes  
was a man. People knew he had gone off  
the deep end when — according to legend —  
he attempted to embrace a horse that  
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a "Turin horse."

Nemes never recovered. But what  
happened to the cart man and the horse?

MARGOT HARRISON



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THE SEVEN DAYS STAFF BLOG

SEVEN DAYS

20TH SOUTH END ART HOP

\* STRUT is the only ticketed event of the Art Hop and sells out quickly. Buy your tickets online today at [sevengrains.com](http://sevengrains.com).

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) These days you have a knack for misdirection and misdirection. As for anyone can put fun into what's dysfunctional isn't you. You may even be able to infuse neurotic clearances with a dose of erotic playfulness. So be confident in your ability to perform and make in right spots. Be alert for opportunities to celebrate messy irrelevancy into speedy intrigue. By the way how do you like the term "Neuroticism"? I suggest you step away any previous associations you might have had and be open to the possibility that you can find new meanings for it.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) The game of tic-tac-toe is simple. Even young children can manage it. And yet there are 255,168 different ways for a single match to play out. The game of life has far more variables than tic-tac-toe. I think that's to be good for you to keep in mind in the coming weeks. You may be tempted to believe that each situation you're dealing with can have only one or two possible outcomes. When in fact it probably has at least 255,168. Keep your options wide open. Brainstorm about unexpected possibilities.

**GENIUS** (May 21-June 20) Let's turn our ear to the word "trick" for "trickster" that we use it to point out those influences you could benefit from cutting in. Here are the definitions of "trickster": 1. A kind of demon 2. The player employed for leading tricks together 3. A booby whose leading tricks are ground into powder Now please middle in German on anything you could do that might 1. deflect your adversaries 2. cement new unions 3. make a container — in other words create a specific time and place — where you'll work on a cure for your outliving.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Minerva song "Smells Like Teen Spirit" was a message that said well and genuine critical action. But it had a difficult birth. When the band's leader Kurt Cobain first presented the new tune to the band's bassist, Krist Novoselic, he liked it and called it "disobedient." Cobain pointed back, forcing Novoselic and drummer Dave Grohl to play it over and over again for an hour and a half in the course of the trial the early no-violence dissolved. Novoselic and Grohl even offered their own touches to the song lyrics. I foresee a similar process for you in the coming



## Leo

(July 23-August 22)

One of history's most notorious case trials took place in Athens, Greece, in 399 BCE. A majority of 500 jurors convicted the philosopher Socrates of impiety and of being a bad influence on young people. What were the charges brought to the gods? Failing to acknowledge the fact that "the city acknowledges" and "introducing new deities." And so the great man was sentenced to death. This is a good reminder that just because many people believe something is true or valuable or important doesn't mean it is. That's especially crucial for you to keep in mind. You are in a phase when it might be wise and healthy to end at least one popular trend. Goodbye to not your friend.

week. Consider giving a long lease to an unfavorable idea that doesn't give you a first.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) With all the homework you've done lately you've earned a lot of extra credit. So in thinking you'll get a decent grade in your unofficial "classroom" even if you're a bit sleepy during your final

exam. But just in case I'll provide you with a man cheat sheet. Here are the right answers to the five of the most challenging test questions. 1. People who never break anything will never learn how to make lasting connections. 2. A mirror is not just an excellent tool for self-defense, but also a tremendous asset in your quest for power over yourself. 3. The less you hide the truth, the stronger you'll be. 4. The well-oiled machine that makes the tape. 5. You should meet your destiny on the road you took to avoid it.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) The Hubble Space Telescope has taken 700,000 photos of deep space. Because its size is record-setting, it's impossible to capture from the Earth's surface. It has also provided enhanced astronomers' understanding of stars and galaxies. The Hubble's technology got off to a rough start however. Soon after its launch scientists realized that there was a major flaw in its main mirror. Fortunately, astronauts were eventually able to correct the problem in a series of repairs that are quite possible. Libra that you'll benefit from a Hubble-like augmentation of your vision in the real world. Right from the beginning, make sure there are no significant defects in the foundation of your big expansion.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Someone's power is regarded as an indication that this should be avoided or hidden. But there are always for want seeking a sign of reason and vigor. In Egyptian culture, for example, "How do you do it?" is a common salutation. In the coming weeks, Scorpio, I encourage you to sign your work with the latter attitude. It won't be a time to try to impress anyone with how cool and dignified you are. Rather, let your inner voice be your guide. You're not only going to sweat but also willing to let people see you sweat. Earn your sweat. Earn your sweat. Show how much you care.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) "Remember me." I take too much or too little. I do not take the most amount." Write your Antonio Pantoja. "The exact amount is no use to me." I suggest if you're waking that balance attitude in the coming days, Sagittarius, be a bit confrontational with humor and wit. Doing so would, I think, put you in sweet agreement with the angel nature of the video series.

In your vicinity? If you remember just the right amount of devil may care, perhaps you'll be likely to get the most out of the entire series that will unfold.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) What is the longest running in your life? Maybe it's a deception you've worked long and hard to hide. Maybe it's a deception you've invited on believing in. Or perhaps it's just a way you keep thinking will cause true one day, even though there's scant evidence a evil will. Whatever that big dam on your energy is, Capricorn, now would be a good time to try changing your relationship with it. I can't say to sure that you'll be able to completely transform it overnight. But if you marshal a strong intention, you will be able to get the process under way.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You may have heard that theory that somewhere there is a special person who is your other half — the missing part of you. In Q.A. Lovers' version of this theory, the two of you were a single angel that divided in two babies you were born. Personally I don't buy it. The experiences of everyone I've ever known suggest that there are many possible soul mates for each of us. So there's only one variable in the deal. Any good Internet relationship promises an "angel" — a spirit that the two partners create together. This is an excellent time for you to try out this hypothesis. Aquarius, as you interact with your cosmic ally, imagine that a third party is with you, your mutual angel.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) In the coming weeks, you'll be able to shed your emotional baggage and purge your dreams worries and fears. You'll find your attachments to the old days and the old ways in it will needs clear out a lot of fear. Fresh again. And when you're freed from doing that, Pisces, don't leave away in a dark corner being vulnerable and sensitive and stopped here. Rather, shake yourself in the middle of a festive hub and prepare to connect with new playmates, unexpected adventures, and new friends. Take the right of random Rite Musician jumps up the right approach. "Be empty and let the love put away in the cupboards. But like the bowl on the counter, cereal box above, willing to receive."

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**Curse, Foiled Again**

British authorities uncovered a terrorist plot to bomb Jewish sites after the couple planning the attack got into an argument that resulted in police being called to intervene. Prosecutor Iolistic Chetana said Shanta Khan, 38, told officers Mohammed Sajid Khan, 33, was "a home-grown terrorist" and proceeded to "spit the beans" about his terrorist activities while denying any involvement himself. Officers then searched the home and found beheading videos, al-Qaida propaganda, bomb-making guides and addresses in Manchester's Jewish community. Mohammed Khan pleaded guilty, and Shaan Khan was convicted on three terrorism-related counts. (Associated Press)

Sheriff's investigators acted Zackary Dettor Pace, 24, of robbing the fast-food restaurant where he worked in Jefferson County, Ala., after his coworkers recognized him because his disguise was so bad. "Just about every employee in there called him by name and thought he was joking around," Chief Deputy Randy Christian said, until he showed a gun and grabbed cash. He fled but returned three days later while detectives were interviewing witnesses. "He showed up just to see how everyone was doing, and we arrested him," Christian said. "So obviously, not the smartest man

in the world." (Birmingham News and WBSC-TV)

**Monkey See, Monkey Do**

Zookeepers at Indianapolis Tatu Jurag Zoo reacted a female orangutan out of sight of visitors to stop her from smoking lit cigarettes that people throw into her cage. Zoo official Derrick Hendricks said the orangutan has been smoking for 30 of her 15 years, spitting humans by holding cigarettes casually between her fingers and puffing away while visitors watch and photograph her. (Associated Press)

**Second-Amendment Follies**

After his girlfriend refused to shoot a .380-caliber, semiautomatic handgun in his family's backyard in Abano, Texas, Israel Torres, 17, grabbed the weapon and fired at a baton trunk. The bullet ricocheted, fatally hitting him in the head. (Associated Press)

Adeline Miller, 24, died from a gunshot by an off-duty police officer who was dancing at an outdoor party in Detroit after she hugged the officer from behind, causing the holstered weapon to accidentally discharge and strike her in the chest. (Detroit Free Press)

An unidentified 32-year-old man accidentally shot himself in Teapeck, N.J., when the 45-caliber gun he was carrying in his waist-

band slipped. Police said that when the man tried to grab the gun, he accidentally pulled the trigger, shooting himself in the leg and rupturing an artery. (Bergen County's Record)

Charles Robert Kimball, 19, died at a gun range in Livingston County, Mich., while his 19-year-old friend was firing an AK-47 assault rifle. Sheriff Bob Becotte said the friend was applying lubricant after the weapon jammed when he accidentally engaged a bullet, which fired and struck Kimball, who was standing about 12 feet down range. (Detroit Free Press)

Federal authorities blamed Craig Sheffer, 23, with starting a wild fire that burned more than 16,000 acres of Arizona's Tonto National Forest by firing a shotgun at a bachelor campout with four other men. The round was an "incendiary shotgun shell" whose percolating promises, "Shreds 100 feet of fire, setting everything in its path ablaze. Warning: Extreme FIRE HAZARD" (Smoking Gun)

**Not-So-Great Escape**

When sheriff's deputies approached a man they found lying in a motel parking lot in Modesto, Calif., he ran behind the motel and disappeared. A deputy noticed a hole in the ground, 18 inches in diameter, leading to a septic tank, where the man was hiding up to his

shoulders in liquid. Deputies and fire rescue crews spent 30 minutes trying to coax the man from the tank. He remained "verbally combative," Stanislaus Chief Bryan Hunt said, until agreeing to leave the tank if his mother told him to. After she spoke with him by phone and sent his stepfather to the scene, he emerged from the hole, lit a cigarette and refused to be hosed off. When deputies asked the unidentified man why he jumped into the tank, he answered he'd seen people make similar moves on TV. (Modesto Bee and Sacramento's KTXL-TV)

**Unclear on the Concept**

Police arrested Shamane White, 36, in Belleville, Ill., for calling 911 six times on a Saturday night to complain that her boyfriend wouldn't give her more heat. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

After Tonya Ann Fowler, 45, spotted her police mug shot on the front page of a local publication that circulates pictures of recently arrested people, she called 911 to complain "about how she looked" in the photo. Police in Windsor, Ga., responded by arresting her and taking a new mug shot where she was booked at the Morrow County Detention Center for unlawful use of 911 and disorderly conduct. (Smoking Gun)



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## AMERICAN ELF

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Correction: last week's strip mentioned a "Lake Carina". The correct name is Lake Carini.

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